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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

BUSINESS



Apple appears to be making less of a profit from each new iPad than it did when it launched the previous model a year ago, according to a research firm's analysis.

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ASIA



Thousands of Tibetans gathered to mourn a farmer who died after setting himself on fire to protest Chinese rule in Tibetan areas, a U.S. broadcaster said.

► **PAGE 15**

OVERDRIVE



Imagine if Orson Welles was expected to improve on "Citizen Kane" every six years, or if Kobe Bryant's contract demanded that every time he put Nike to hardwood, he needed to score 60 points. Such is the sphere of influence where BMW's 3 Series operates.

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Close to 100 foreign businesses look at Saipan's investment potentials. **PAGE 3**

AS 2-YEAR-OLD INTERIOR RECOMMENDATIONS GATHER DUST

FAS-like status eyed again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



With limited options available to avoid the mass exit of needed foreign workers after 2014, the Senate leadership said yesterday it will push anew for its proposal to U.S. Congress to grant alien workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 an immigration status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens.

See FAS-LIKE on Page 4

MASTER PLAN

Tourists walk past a giant advertisement in front of DFS Galleria in Garapan yesterday afternoon. A 2012-2016 tourism master plan for the CNMI found that casinos did not make it to the Top 10 list of activities and options that tourists from different destinations wanted to see or explore on the islands, but casino proponents are now working on a popular initiative to ask Saipan voters whether they want casinos on their island to help boost the economy.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CHC medical chief Deary resigns



By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Health Center director for Medical Affairs Dr. Michael Deary resigned from his post yesterday afternoon after four years at the hospital.

Deary confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he submitted his resignation letter to corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta and that Babauta accepted it. Babauta was not immediately available for comments yesterday.

Deary is assigned to the hospital's Ob-

See DEARY on Page 4

Healthcare corp. inks contract with off-island collection firm

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has outsourced the hospital's billing services to an Idaho-based company.

Saipan Tribune learned that the corporation's chief executive officer, Juan N. Babauta, inked a sole-source six-year contract with International Consulting Services, LLC on Feb. 28.

Sources privy to the negotiation disclosed that the company will be

See HEALTHCARE on Page 4

Wiseman finds DPS practices in hiring, promotion discriminatory

» **Judge awards attorney's fees, costs to Sgt. Deleon Guerrero**

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David

A. Wiseman yesterday issued a judgment favorable to Police Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero who filed a court action to protest the Department of Public Safety's

discriminatory practices in its promotion and hiring process.

"Here, DPS turned a blind eye to

See WISEMAN on Page 4



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Fitial apologizes to those offended by his remarks

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial apologized yesterday to those who may have been offended by his remarks last week, clarifying that the word "stupid" was directed only at Rota and Tinian senators who rejected again a House bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan.

"I want to apologize to everyone who misunderstood my remarks. I want everyone to know that I was referring directly to those senators that defeated the casino bill, a measure that would have provided much needed relief to our economy and to our people who are suffering from the poor economy," Fitial said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said it's time for the governor to "stop talking and start doing something" to address the concerns of the NMI Retirement Fund, the Public School System, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the food stamp program, among other things.

"The governor should stop playing politics and start doing more to address the Fund and other issues. Judge Ken Govendo's decision Monday said if there's no plan or solution by June 15, 2012, he will allow the parties to proceed with receivership petitions," Manglona said.

Manglona was among the lawmakers who met with Govendo and other parties on March 13 and 14 to discuss the Fund's financial crisis.

He cited in part Govendo's decision

"The court believes sound suggestions for the solution of the Fund's crisis were made on March 13 and 14, 2012. However, the demise of the Fund is imminent and steps to save the Fund must be taken immediately. Therefore, the court is setting a deadline for an agreed upon solution and any legislative initiative that will help the Fund. The deadline is June 15, 2012. If the court believes that the actions of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Branch, and/or the Legislative Branch are unsatisfactory, it will allow petitions for receivership to be filed. The court will hear arguments on this on June 29, 2012."

Manglona reiterated that the governor should be more respectful to other elected officials and the people of the CNMI.

But Fitial said the senators are also being irresponsible for defeating a major revenue-generating bill when people are already suffering.

See FITIAL on Next Page

Local



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

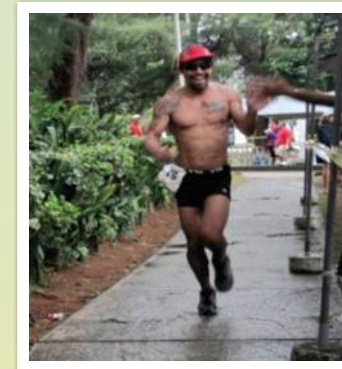
2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship 2102 Tagaman

The 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship and 2012 Tagaman return to the Northern Marianas this Saturday



(March 24) and next (March 31), offering residents the perfect opportunity to roll out the red carpet for visiting athletes.

In addition to local organizing committees putting the final touches on preparations for these world-class events (sanctioned by **USA Triathlon**), volunteer groups have signed up to help with aid stations and other logistical needs during the events. Residents are asked to drive with care while on the roads on Saturday mornings and to restrain their dogs.



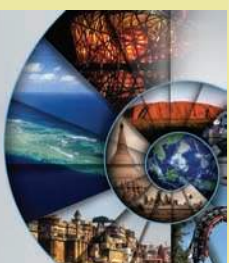
Friday night beachgoers are reminded to properly dispose of the party trash in preparation for the early morning races. Everyone is welcomed to cheer for the athletes during the competition.

For the less-athletic and younger athletes, a number of events are also open for participation during the annual **Sports Fest** celebration, with a full agenda listed at www.saipansports.com.

Don't miss this chance to be a part of these annual signature events of the Northern Mariana Islands!



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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Close to 100 foreign businesses look at Saipan's investment potentials

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Close to 100 foreign investors mostly from China wrapped up on Sunday their three-day religious-based business fellowship that paved the way for them to look at Saipan's investment po-

tentials including in the areas of hotels, condominiums, and power generation.

Other investors came from Hawaii, California, and Indonesia.

Roy Ying, USA national director of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship Interna-

tional, said they chose Saipan as venue for the conference because of its proximity to China, its American system, its natural beauty, and it being not as developed as Hawaii.

Ying said after investors saw Saipan and its potentials, the next step would be to see how these businesses can actually invest here. He said the group will bring more potential investors to Saipan in the coming months.

"Today is just the beginning... In the future we will bring more businesses to Saipan. We will try to work together to make Saipan more famous in the world," he said in an interview.

CNMI Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, during the

opening ceremonies at Aqua Resort Club on Friday night, told the visiting businesses that it is not surprising that the islands here are "America's best kept secret" and hoped that the CNMI will be of great interest to these investors.

"We may not have much in comparison to other well-developed nations but I can assure you that you will find peace, comfort and happiness within our islands and our people; whether you are here for a business venture, pleasure or just to look for a place to meditate," Igisomar said.

The crowd included Richard Shakarian, international president of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International, touted the largest Christian business organization

in the world.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce which helped organize the conference on Saipan, talked about the evolution of the CNMI economy and how the conference, the presence of foreign investors and interest alone "are evidence of the revival of an economy."

"It is time to start again. We cannot begin to rebuild our economy without foreign investment. Your group, from all over China, and from other countries including the United States, represents what we know is necessary to rebuilding this economy," Pierce said during the welcoming ceremonies.

Just like other speakers, Pierce recognized businessman

Calvin Kang for investing in the Ladera School and hopes that others will follow suit.

"The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is ready to assist you when you are ready, and I can give you many reasons to invest and start companies in Saipan. Saipan is a part of the United States and investors are protected by all U.S. federal laws. Saipan has attractive tax advantages. Goods manufactured in the CNMI still enjoy duty-free entry into the United States as long as 30 percent of their value is added here. Saipan has labor costs less than the U.S., Hawaii, and Guam," Pierce said.

He also made pitch about the Regional Economic Center in the CNMI for EB-5 immigrant investors.

FITIAL

From Page 2

"Their (senators) irresponsible act was a direct slap on the face to all our people who are yearning for a better economy and better household incomes. Those senators even called in CUC to ask them why they are disconnecting CHC and PSS. And when CUC told them that CHC and PSS don't have the money to pay their bills, what was the first thing they did? They killed a bill that would have generated new money!" the governor said.

The Saipan casino bill was defeated by a vote of 6-2. Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) strongly supported the casino bill. Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) was absent in that session.

Fitial said when the six senators defeated the casino bill, they "basically let the people know that they will not do anything that will benefit their constituents, but they will do everything to receive a severely inflated subsistence allowance."

"They criticize me about the Retirement Fund, yet they are taking their time confirming two nominations I have made even though they know the board is without a quorum," the governor added.

Manglona said the Senate Committee on Executive Ap-

pointments and Government Investigations will hold a public hearing today on the reappointments of two Fund board trustees - Sixto K. Igisomar and Adelina C. Roberto.

"The governor re-nominated the two in late January but as of Monday, March 19, they have yet to submit the requirements including drug test result and financial statements. The committee chairman, Senator (Frank) Cruz was supposed to cancel Tuesday's public hearing because the administration did not make sure that the nominees submit the documents," Manglona said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor is willing to meet with anyone who would like to help the people of the CNMI.

"What the governor is very unhappy about is having meetings such as the leadership summits, then going back to their respective chamber and doing the complete opposite. The governor will continue to work with the Lt. governor to bring about the relief our people are looking for. They would definitely welcome any help from lawmakers who want to sincerely help people," Demapan added.

But the Senate president said "there are 99 other things on the table besides casino."

"The governor should work with the House to make sure that the revenue-generating bills that the Senate passed will move," Manglona said.

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FAS-LIKE

From Page 1

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chair of the Federal Relations and Independent Agencies Committee, said the CNMI still needs a reasonable number of foreign workers to help fuel its economy.

"One year has passed since we presented our recommendation to Congress. We will push for it again, and will write a follow-up letter to the chairman of the U.S. House committee with oversight on the CNMI," Hofschneider said.

Under the Senate recommendation, there's an additional five-year waiting period or until 2013 before eligible foreign workers could apply for a FAS-like status.

FAS citizens are those from Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae.

Hofschneider and three other senators presented their recommendation

on the status of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI to House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs chair John Fleming (R-LA) in March 2011 in Washington, D.C.

"We still stand by our recommendation of FAS-like status for long-term foreign workers," the senator said.

Foreign workers need to have non-immigrant or immigrant visa classifications under the Immigration and Nationality Act such as H visas when the federalization transition period ends on Dec. 31, 2014. But many of the existing transitional workers won't be able to qualify for INA visas in two years' time.

Other options to allow the CNMI economy to still have access to some 10,000 foreign workers include extending the transition period, granting improved immigration status to foreign workers, or returning control of local immigration to the CNMI government.

Jun Concillado, vice president of

the United Workers Movement-NMI, said they welcome recommendations to improve the status of long-term foreign workers, including the CNMI Senate recommendations for a FAS-like status to eligible alien workers.

"We thank the Senate for looking after the welfare and status of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI. We are not opposing this recommendation, but we have made known our position ever since that we would like pathway to citizenship," Concillado told *Saipan Tribune*.

Concillado said UWM hopes that the U.S. Congress acts on the U.S. Department of the Interior's May 2010 recommendations on improved status of long-term alien workers, especially the first two of five recommendations that include outright grant of U.S. citizenship and permanent residency or pathway to citizenship.

The CNMI Senate's recommendation to Congress was a product of a series of public hearings and "as a sensible compromise on improved

legal immigration status for guest workers and retention of the right to self-government as guaranteed in the Covenant between the U.S. and the Commonwealth."

Concillado said UWM also wel-

comes Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's H.R. 1466, although they wish the bill would include more foreign workers. The bill seeks a grant of CNMI-only resident status for limited groups of people in the CNMI.

WISEMAN

From Page 1

Deleon Guerrero's grievances, and Civil Service Commission was unable to hear his grievance due to lack of quorum, forcing him to hire an attorney to remedy the agency's selection principles with reallocation and 'outside hire promotions,'" Wiseman said.

In bringing this court action, the judge said, Deleon Guerrero alone effectuated the important legislative policies underlying the Civil Service Act and the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations (PSSRR) as well as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Directive #275 dated Oct. 20, 2010.

Fitial states in Directive #275 that DPS "should continue" to "comply with the PSSRR and Civil Service Act concerning salary/merit increases and promotions."

Wiseman determined that there were continuing violations by DPS constituting de facto promotion by reallocation which were not proper.

Wiseman found violations of the CSA and PSSRR with the use of the reallocation process to promote then Police Officer II Alfred Celes to sergeant and Tinian then Sgt. Eloy K. Fitial to captain along with attending salaries.

The judge sustained Deleon Guerrero's grievance and found that DPS' agency action is deemed to be arbitrary and capricious as well as a violation of law.

Wiseman awarded Deleon Guerrero attorneys' fees and costs on grounds of his prosecution of a private attorney general action as permitted under the CSA.

Wiseman ordered Robert T. Torres, counsel for Deleon Guerrero, to submit his statement of fees and costs within 15 days from yesterday.

The judge ordered DPS to cause the demotion and rescind the reallocation of Eloy K. Fitial to sergeant.

Wiseman ordered DPS to announce the vacated position and afford competitive selection to eligible candidates as provided for in the PSSRR and as directed by Governor's Directive #275.

Wiseman said DPS and OPM shall take all appropriate measures to recover the illegal overpayments from Celes and Eloy K. Fitial for all salaries received as sergeant and captain, respectively, "which were illegal and prohibited by the CSA and PSSR inclusive of the austerity measures."

"Until such time as the austerity measures are repealed, whether by force of law or administrative action, DPS is enjoined from conducting any further reallocations, promotions, or merit-increase without court approval," Wiseman said.

With respect to Deleon Guerrero's grievance with respect to

the hiring and/or selection of Sgt. Paul Ogumoro and Sgt. Vicente Tagabuel, Wiseman denied it, saying there is no showing that DPS violated the PSSRR and such actions were within the agency's discretion and that the positions were duly announced.

Torres said yesterday that Wiseman's decision was both necessary and unfortunate.

"Sgt. Guerrero took on a quest which many felt pyrrhic and futile, but today is vindicated in that effort. It is his hope that the rule of law, to ensure the standard of non-discriminatory merit-based treatment for all civil service officers, carries the day," Torres said.

Torres said the irony is that it has taken committed officers from within DPS to take on the challeng-

ing task, where allowing injustice is easy by doing nothing, doing justice is part of what they do every day, the hard part.

"It has been a long road and we hope that this would be a shift in direction back to the basic principles of Civil

Service Act and the Personnel Regulations: fairness, equal treatment, and merit-based," Torres said.

In May 2009, Deleon Guerrero sued DPS to protest over the alleged discrimination in its promotion and hiring practices. Twenty-five other police officers joined Deleon Guerrero's lawsuit.

Wiseman issued an order on Feb. 1, 2011. In that order he concluded that issues of material fact still remain as to (1) whether Officer Tagabuel and Officer Ogumoro were hired in violation of the PSSRRs; and (2) whether Fitial's Directive made Deleon Guerrero's request for an order ending discriminatory practices and disparate treatment moot.

Wiseman conducted an evidentiary hearing on March 9, April 4, and April 6, 2011 in order to elicit evidence on these remaining factual questions.

In his final judgment issued yesterday, Wiseman said since the inception of Deleon Guerrero's grievance and during the pendency of this case, DPS had continued the illegal practice unabated resulting in DPS picking and choosing when it will apply the rules and when it will disregard the rules.

Wiseman said Sgt. Fitial's reallocation was the approach taken instead of DPS looking from outside of DPS to hire a captain given the austerity measures as it previously justified.

"But the fact of the matter is that Sgt. Fitial was a lateral in-house hire, and there is no testimony nor evidence that he resigned nor separated from DPS," he said.

As to the grievance and objections by Deleon Guerrero with respect to the selection of Sgt. Ogumoro and Sgt. Tagabuel, the court finds them to be meritorious with regard to their hiring and selection.



Wiseman

DEARY

From Page 1

stetrics and Gynecology section.

He is described by peers and nurses as an asset to the public hospital and that, since becoming director for Medical Affairs in October 2011, has shown "sincere concern" to hospital employees who have been affected by the financial crisis.

Public Health director Dr. Dan Lamar said that Deary's resignation is a great loss to the hospital. "I am sad [to see him leave because] Dr. Deary is an important member of our medical staff," Lamar said.

Lamar lauded Deary's efforts and initiatives as the hospital's director for Medical Affairs. He said he will "forever admire" the true concern Deary demonstrated for CHC employees.

CHC inpatient pharmacist Anthony Raho who, like Deary, is a member of the corporation board, said he was

disappointed to learn of the doctor's resignation.

"I am very disappointed...but I am not surprised. I am afraid that with what's happening at the hospital, I would imagine that we are gonna start seeing a lot of good staff looking for employment elsewhere," Raho told *Saipan Tribune*, describing the current state of the hospital as "very disturbing."

Raho said that in the very short period that Deary became Medical Affairs director, he showed his sincerity and tried very hard to make the hospital a better place for patients and employees.

"Dr. Deary, like many people here, tried really hard and I think he is a very valuable member of our medical staff. He did a good job as DMA (director of Medical Affairs) and was really concerned about the welfare of the medical and general staff of the hospital. Surely, he will be missed here. I feel sorry that he made that decision [to resign] but certainly I can understand his rationale

for doing so," he added.

Deary, along with medical staff and physicians, recently trooped to the Legislature to air their concerns about the poor state of the public hospital due to the lack of funding.

Prior to this, Deary wrote a letter to the editor in the local newspapers to bring up his frustration over the current condition of the hospital due to what he believes is the lack of support from lawmakers.

The healthcare corporation took over the Department of Public Health in October last year with only \$5 million in seed money appropriated by the Legislature. The department used to run on a \$36-million annual budget. Because of this, almost everything at CHC has been affected—from delayed payrolls to non-issuance of housing allowances; non-remittance of allotments such as retirement, credit union, and medical and life insurances; nonpayment of obligation to vendors; to lack of medical supplies and equipment.

in Washington, D.C. for a conference.

Healthcare corporation board chair Jack Torres confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that GMCA no longer serves the corporation and that it has been replaced by International Consulting.

Representatives of the new company, he said, were in fact at the hospital, setting up machines and equipment since last week. The contract was entered into on Feb. 24 but formally executed on Feb 28.

Torres said that prior to the contract approval, the board and Babauta did extensive research on the matter and both were impressed with the company's success rate.

"If you look at the current trend in the U.S. mainland, hospitals are outsourcing these services to India [companies]. So when ICS presented in Guam, they extended it to the CNMI and, after reviewing their presentation and their profile, we made the decision to hire them," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* last week, adding that they are confident in the capability of the company to turn around the collection and billing processes at CHC.

According to Torres, ICS also owns and operates some hospitals that were previously in state of bankruptcy.

Saipan Tribune learned that the ICS contract covers 18 specific services

and includes timely charge processing and data entry; electronic submission of claims based on payor availability; payment posting and contractual adjustments per insurance contracts; balance daily work, prepare bank deposits; insurance resolution; timely credit balance resolution; and patient account resolution, among others.

It was learned that the contract includes a reimbursement clause that states: "ICS shall also be reimbursed 5 percent of billed charges for accounts that are deemed uncollectible because of inaccurate billing demographics, lack of documentation for services provided, or lack of medical necessity resulting in denial of payment."

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Attorney General Edward Buckingham and NMI Procurement Office director Herman Sablan but both have yet to comment on the issue.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that as a corporation within the government, CHC should abide by its procurement rules and regulations. "In the absence of such, the CNMI procurement regs should be observed. Once the administration has had a chance to conduct a thorough review of this contract, further comment shall be forthcoming," added Demapan.

HEALTHCARE

From Page 1

paid for the first three years an 11 percent commission on the total amount it will collect per year. The fee will increase to 11.5 percent in the last three years of the contract.

For example, if the company successfully collects \$20 million a year, it will be paid \$2.2 million that will increase to \$2.3 million per annum in the remaining three years of the contract.

The six-year contract may also be renewed for another year if both parties want to do so.

Prior to the corporation takeover in October 2011, Guam Marianas Collection Agency was handling the billing services of the Commonwealth Health Center. It was also being paid through percentage commission.

It was learned that the sole-source contract with International Consulting was executed before Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared a state of emergency for the public hospital on March 6. It is only during emergency declarations that procurement regulations are suspended throughout the declaration period.

The signing of the contract was done when Babauta was officially off-island

\$1M cash transfer to CHC expected today

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will receive this afternoon a portion of the \$3 million loan approved by the Marianas Public Land Trust, according to press secretary Angel A. Demapan.

He disclosed that \$1 million will be transferred to the corporation after the loan agreement was reviewed and finalized by the Office of the Attorney General yesterday.

"A memorandum of agreement is being finalized between CHC and the central government to provide for a measured disbursement of funds and coordination with the Office of Management and Budget. The

MOA will initially provide \$1 million in funds to CHC," said Demapan.

The memorandum of agreement requires that among the first expenditures will be payment for the employees' insurance that has gone unpaid for seven pay periods.

Demapan said that a letter from Babauta and the OAG was transmitted to the land trust yesterday, requesting the issuance of the funds to the Department of Finance so that the money will be available for disbursement.

"MPLT anticipates being able to have a check issued to CHC by tomorrow afternoon [today]," said Demapan.

According to him, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial met Saturday

with members of the corporation, chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, and Attorney General Edward Buckingham. In that meeting, he quoted the governor as saying that "the administration is here to work with CHC to effectively manage the issues presented. While we do not have unlimited funds, we have the strength and competence to make sound management decisions to bring revenues and expenditures into balance."

Babauta meantime reported on the changes in the hospital's accounting and collection system, which has already seen some increased revenue. Further improvements are anticipated within three to six months.

Demapan said the governor

was pleased with the report, saying the projections look good and, as a former banker, he looks for signs that an organization is managing its resources and will have the capacity to

repay its debts.

MPLT approved last week a \$4.58 million loan to the corporation, which includes \$1.58 million for the hospital's electronic health record system.

This was in lieu of pending bills that propose a revolving credit line for the corporation. The hospital's Navy Hill property and its collectibles were offered as collateral for the loan.

Camacho rejects ex-convict's bail modification request

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday rejected a bail modification motion filed by an ex-convict who was arrested for allegedly beating up his girlfriend and threatening to kill her brother with a knife and golf club.

Camacho found as not suitable defendant Jeronimo S. Ada's appearance bond—two proposed property—as they are long term leased and mortgaged.

The judge also determined that Ada's mother's home is not suitable as it is located next to the victim's new boyfriend's house.

The court had earlier imposed a \$7,000 cash bail on the 35-year-old Ada.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that on the early morning of March 4, 2012 Ada allegedly confronted his then girlfriend for having a lot

of numbers on her cellphone, choked her, punched her on the breast, and threatened to kill her.

The victim's brother and his friend were awakened by the shouting. Ada allegedly grabbed a vase and was going to hit the brother.

The girlfriend, however, grabbed the vase. Ada then grabbed a knife from the kitchen and wanted to stab the brother. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Woman accused of selling 'ice' near school pleads not guilty

A woman who was arrested last month by U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" near a school on Saipan, has pleaded not guilty of the charges.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday afternoon advised defendant Yue Xin Tang of her constitutional rights and the charges against her.

Tang, who appeared with court-appointed counsel Loren Sutton and a Chinese interpreter, pleaded not guilty.

Manglona set the trial for April 23, 2012.

Tang was then remanded back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

According to DEA special agent Jacqueline R. Gordon,

they were able to purchase \$150 and \$700 worth of "ice" from Tang using a confidential source on Oct. 27, 2011 and Nov. 9, 2011 respectively.

Gordon stated in her affidavit that, on Oct. 26, 2011, she and another DEA special agent, along with a Department of Public Safety Task Force officer, interviewed a DPS confidential source regarding the defendant's "ice" distribution

activities in Garapan area.

Gordon said the following day, using the confidential source they were able to purchase \$150 worth of "ice" from Tang at a parking lot behind Bank of Guam.

Gordon said that, on Nov. 9, 2011, they managed to buy \$700 worth of "ice" from the defendant using the same confidential source at a parking lot of 99 Cents Store. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Amusement park operator withdraws application

A company that expressed interest in applying for a conditional use permit with the Zoning Office to operate outdoor amusement games in Sadog Tasi decided to withdraw its application.

Acting Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogunmoro reported during last Wednesday's board meeting that Top Shot Playstation officially withdrew its application pending completion of application requirements.

Top Shot Playstation proposed to operate on a 48,000-square-meter vacant land outdoor amusement games that will include paintball, archery, a shooting range, and bank trails.

The intended site is on track #22616 REM located in Sadog Tasi below Capitol Hill.

The area, which can be accessed from the Sadog Tasi Mobil gas station on Isa Drive or the Shell gas station along Chalan Pale Arnold road in Puerto Rico, is zoned as rural district. *(Clarissa V. David)*

INCOME TAX RETURN

(Deadline 4/15/12)

We accept Tax Preparation

Minimum charge of \$10.00

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TBK DOCUMENT HANDLING

2nd floor of Dallar Days (Garapan) across Rainbow Color - Tel#233-2288

2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of these business days

January 20 • February 27 • March 20
April 20 • May 23 • June 20 • July 20
August 22 • September 20 • October 24
November 21 • December 20

will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on these days. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before these dates.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **these dates**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

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To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

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'Court in no position to order cut on Fund members' benefits'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo ruled yesterday that he will not order a reduction on the NMI Retirement Fund members' benefits because he believes the court is not in a position to do so.

He added that the authority to cut pension benefits lies on the Fund's board of trustees and perhaps on the Legislature through constitutional amendments.

Govendo called a two-day forum of all parties involved in the Fund situation last week where hundreds of attendees were recorded.

In a two-page order issued yesterday, Govendo said if the court were to cut benefits, judicial review would not be avail-

able. Therefore, the court itself, will not order the reduction in the benefit of retirees.

Instead, the associate judge recommended 14 possible solutions on how the life of the pension program can be extended.

These include formation of a task force that includes people from the Fund, the executive branch, and the retirees to come up with a concrete solution within 120 days; float a bond and reduce pensions by 10 percent to pay the bond; use 100 percent of the tax rebate to pay into the Fund; and eliminate gross receipts tax, implement a sales tax, and remit 100 percent of the sales tax to the Fund.

Govendo also recommended the implementation of a value-added tax and the establishment of a maximum threshold for pension benefits.

A cap of \$50,000 will be put on all benefits with a sliding scale percentage reduction of benefits under \$50,000. Moreover, benefits below a certain level will not be reduced.

A cap on all future pensions at \$40,000 per year was also suggested including the assessment of interest in over and under payments of pension benefits as well as implemen-

tation of a pension excise tax on off-island retirees' benefits. A plan is also recommended to be formulated so that retirees will still be able to keep their life and health insurance if pension payment cease.

The associate judge also recommended the termination of funds for scholarship programs to save the Fund and move away from percentage employer contributions and have dollar contributions instead.

He also recommended a con-

stitutional amendment to allow 25 percent of the annual budget to be set aside and remitted to the Fund before the rest of the budget is allocated.

Govendo also suggested that the CNMI allow golf courses and prime land to be leased up to 99 years or higher for \$50 million or the appraised value of the land. These lands will be under the management of the Department of Public Lands but the lease payments will be for the Fund.

One last recommendation of the associate judge is to appoint a receiver for the Fund.

According to Govendo, many pensioners are not aware of the true condition of the pension program despite numerous presentation of the actuarial consultant. He ordered the Fund to explain the various scenarios to the pensioners and obtain feedback about whether pensioners will accept reduced benefits and, if so, by how much. Fund was ordered to submit this on June 29, 2012.

"The court believes sound suggestions for the solution of the

Fund's crisis was made on March 13 and 14. However, the demise of the Fund is imminent and steps to save the Fund must be taken immediately," said Govendo.

He set June 15, 2012 as deadline for the parties to come up with a solution and any legislative initiative that will save the Fund.

"If the court believes that the actions of the board of trustees, the executive branch, and/or the legislative branch are unsatisfactory, it will allow petitions for receivership to be filed," said Govendo, adding that the court will hear arguments on June 29.



FHB, GBM SCHOLARS

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos leads officials of the First Hawaiian Bank, *Guam Business Magazine*, and the Northern Marianas College in congratulating the six students who are recipients of the 2012 Business-woman of the Year Award in a ceremony at the First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai branch last Thursday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Businesses pledge support for Project: PROM

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Project: PROM of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is gaining momentum as local businesses have pledged their support for the cause.

Coalition program assistant Keala Peters said eight companies have already agreed to sponsor their campaign which aims to provide donated prom or special occasion dresses and suits to high school juniors and seniors, making prom night affordable for these students.

Sponsors include Handbags, etc., Nila's salon, Makeover Salon, Serenity Salon & Spa, Dollar Days Wholesale Flowers & Gifts, Blossoms Floral, Unity Dress Shop, and Mari-

anas Cleaners.

"Not only have we already received clothing donations, but we've also captured the attention of local floral shops and salons and dry cleaners. This will help us package the whole prom for the students," said Peters, adding that the coalition is grateful for their assistance.

Peters pointed out that any small donation, whether a small corsage, makeup items, shoes, clothing or hairstyling, would be accepted since it will help the project and, ultimately, make students experience prom.

Project: PROM is part of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month celebration so recipients of donated items will be selected based on their interest in becoming an advocate against sexual violence or assault.

Donations for Project: PROM can be delivered to any of the following locations: the Coalition office located at Springs Plaza on Chalan Pale Arnold, Handbags, etc. along Beach Road in Oleai, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and the clothing drive to be held at the Minatchom Atdao along Beach Road in Garapan on March 31.

Donated items will be distributed to eligible recipients on April 14. During the distribution, there will be a workshop to be facilitated by Teen Talk at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 1pm to 4pm.

For more information, contact Keala Peters at 234-3878, kealapeters670@gmail.com or email nmcdadv@pticom.com.

Live fire training range SEIS info available for review

ASAN, Guam—Information released recently online regarding the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed live-fire training range complex on Guam is now available at various locations around the island.

"In addition to the project Web site (http://bit.ly/Guam_LFTRC_SEIS), this information has been provided in hard-copy to all senators, mayors and many local libraries," said Joint Guam Program Office Forward Director, Capt. Daniel Cuff. "Our intent is to make this infor-

mation accessible to everyone to help facilitate community involvement in the SEIS process."

The information includes a technical report detailing the analysis conducted by the Navy following the commitment it made to 24/7 access to Pagat Village, Cave and trail. It includes notional maps of the five current potentially reasonable alternatives located in the Route 15 area on/adjacent to the Naval Magazine (NAVMAG). It further provides maps showing privately owned parcels of land that are

within the notional alternatives for the live-fire training range complex.

"We encourage the community to take the time to review these documents in advance of the upcoming scoping meetings, as they provide valuable information about the proposed action, considerations for locating training ranges, and where and how the training ranges could operate for each of the current alternatives," said Cuff.

The scoping period is currently open and will close on April 6, 2012 (ChST). (*USN*)

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Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0137
Plaintiff,)
-v-) **NOTICE OF SALE**

RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
Defendant.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on January 26, 2012, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants Rafael S. Demapan in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT NO. 045 A 75, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 003, the original of which was recorded on April 26, 1983 as Document No. 90-1671 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on March 26, 2012, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derece Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and duties of auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derece Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 29 day of February, 2012.

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB12-WIA-054

Submission/Opening Date: March 29, 2012 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY – ROTA BRANCH"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available**, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **EDITH DELEON GUERRERO**
WIA Executive Director

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S



PUBLIC NOTICE



In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 5:00pm to 7:00 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club, Annex Room, San Antonio, Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order**
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of a Quorum
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - November 03, 2011
 - December 07, 2011
 - December 16, 2011
- II. **Annual Report - Ratification**
- III. **SESAP Bylaws - Ratification**
- IV. **Other Matters**
- V. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Frances Diaz
Chairwoman

/s/ Suzanne W. Lizama
Director, Special Education Program

OAG backs 'reasonableness' of senators' allowances

The Office of the Attorney General transmitted a letter of opinion to Public Auditor Michael Pai this month in its effort to improve compliance with recommendations from the Office of the Public Auditor. To address the backlog of outstanding audit recommendations, the OAG has been meeting with OPA as needed to gather the required information.

In 2003, the Office of the Public Auditor published a report based upon its evaluation of the monthly subsistence al-

lowance provided to members of the Senate for the 13th Legislature over a six-month period ending June 30, 2002. OPA concluded, among other things, that the subsistence allowance may only be provided through legislation, the Senate had no authority to grant itself an allowance by rule, and that the amount of the subsistence allowance was set unreasonably high in relation to the senators' likely travel expenses. The attorney general's response traced the evolution of the CNMI Consti-

tution and various public laws, and determined that the question of whether the allowance is properly authorized by law is affirmatively answered by the yearly budget law (section 703(c)(3) of Public Law 17-55 for the current fiscal year).

Regarding the reasonableness of the allowance, the OAG found that this kind of official expense allowance exists in virtually every state legislature across the United States and is routinely upheld by state courts as a valid and rea-

sonable method of compensating legislators for their official expenses. The OAG noted that legislatures are routinely given wide latitude in setting the amount of the allowance.

The OAG further determined that the Department of Finance has the responsibility to control expenditures to prevent the waste of public funds. If the amount of the allowance claimed is unreasonable in relation to this purpose and appears to provide a personal benefit to the legislator, Finance does not

have to pay the claim. Finance can require further justification or documentation before paying the claim. Finance regulations requiring documentation of expenses apply to the Legislature, but the current regulations must be amended to apply more effectively to the current form of allowance.

The OAG feels that it has fulfilled the requirements of OPA's request and anticipates that OPA will close the audit recommendation. Closure of this recommendation would mean that,

since the beginning of the year, the OAG has closed 27 percent of the outstanding OPA recommendations.

"The OAG is pleased with the progress that has been made since renewing its focus on bringing the office into compliance with OPA recommendations. However, this is a long-term project and some of the recommendations will require complex research and investigation that may take more time to resolve than others," the OAG statement ends. (OAG)

Decena retires from CNMI Judiciary

CNMI Superior Court deputy clerk Theodora S. Decena was recently honored on the day of her retirement for her dedication and hard work.

Decena, whose career with the CNMI Judiciary spanned over 19 years, was presented with a special plaque commemorating her service by Supreme Court Justice John Manglona, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, judges Kenneth Govendo, Joseph Camacho, and Perry Inos, former presiding judge Edward Manibusan, Clerk of the Superior Court Bernie Sablan, and former Clerk of Court Jovie Flores.

Also present at the luncheon ceremony was a large contingent of the Judiciary's staff who expressed their sincere appreciation for Decena's friendly and helpful spirit which all would miss.

Decena began with the judiciary in February 1993 as a deputy clerk 1 in the

Superior Court's Clerk of Court's office. She worked closely with then Judge John Manglona, Judge Virginia Onerheim, and Judge David Wiseman at a time when Judge Manibusan was the presiding judge.

She had broad involvement with the affairs of the court that included small claims, probate, traffic and civil cases. In January of 2005, Decena ascended to Deputy Clerk 3, a position that saw her become responsible for jury and appeals coordination and assume a supervisory role.

Of Dora, as she is affectionately known at the court, Presiding Judge Naraja said, "she is a professional in every respect who knows her job and performs at the highest level to the benefit of justice and the citizens of the CNMI."

Born and raised on Saipan, Decena has four children and six grandchildren and plans a retirement with her husband, Rolando Decena, in the Philippines. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left in the back row: Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, Justice John Manglona, Judge Kenneth Govendo, Judge Joseph Camacho, former Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan, and Judge Perry Inos. In the center are Theodora Decena and current and former Clerks of Court Bernadita Sablan and Jovie Flores.

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Joint Grand Opening

Friday, March 23, 2012
8am to 8pm
Ladera Center,
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Get a chance to win a brand new cellular phone with \$10.00 load when you purchase \$25.00 worth of merchandise from **Walk in Closet** or \$10.00 food and drink items from **Konbetsa Kafe**. Drawing will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 6pm.

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Hakubotan	Esquire Beauty Shop	Noni Noni	Armed Forces Career Center (Marines)	Armed Forces Career Center (US Army)	WALK IN CLOSET	KONBETSA KAFE	Dr Larry Hocog	Club 820	Char's Thrifty
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13 artists register for 31st Flame Tree Arts Festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirteen artists have so far registered to take part in the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival slated for next month.

Erica Trinidad, registration committee chair for the festival, said they are still expecting more traditional and contemporary artists to come out and express their interest as festival date gets closer.

"Still, we do encourage our local artists to register now so they are guaranteed a booth

where they can promote their works of art," said Trinidad.

Registration fees for this year's festival are \$50 for registered artists; \$150 for new or non-registered artists; \$1,500 plus \$100 refundable trash deposit for private commercial or food vendors; \$600 for non-profit organizations; and \$250 for information booths.

The 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, which coincides with the blossoming of flame tree flowers, will be held on April 20 to 22 at the Civic Center Park in Susupe.

Slots for those who will be performing during the three-day event are also starting to fill in, added the Arts Council.

Meanwhile, Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog described as "favorable" the funding for this year's festival. He said this is made possible through the assistance of local businesses which have been steadfast in their support for the preservation and promotion of the CNMI's art and cultural heritage.

To date, sponsors for the 31st Annual Flame tree Arts Festival

are Bridge Capital, LLC, Delta Air Lines, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Hocog said more companies are expected to make their contribution to the festivities public in the coming days.

"We are optimistic that the local delegation will also provide us with the financial aid to ensure an enjoyable Flame Tree Arts Festival for the community," added Hocog.

To register or for more information, visit the Arts Council office in Capital Hill next to the post office or call 322-9982 or 83.

Insurance for young drivers

When teenagers reach the age of 16 he or she may be eligible to go behind the wheel of a car. Most young drivers who are new to driving are eager to test the roads as soon

as they have possession of a driver's license and a car. While this can be an exciting time for parents, the anxiety of the unknown start to build up. Parents also worry about how their young driver may affect their insurance premiums once they are added as drivers to their existing auto policies.

Insuring new and inexperienced drivers can be expensive. Insurance companies find many young drivers to be most risky for reasons including lack of experience, peer pressure, and attitude toward danger while driving on the road.

Luckily, in the CNMI auto insurance premiums are constructed in a two-tier bracket:

over 25 and under 25. The age bracket options are offered depending on the type of vehicle covered on the auto policy. For



instance, a policyholder for a sedan with coverage for comprehensive and collision have the option to purchase insurance for drivers who are either over or under the age of 25. A policyholder for a light truck will automatically have to purchase coverage for drivers with a valid driver's license, regardless of age.

Get the best deal

If you plan to insure your young driver, shop around. Although insurance companies in the CNMI work around an auto tariff to determine premium, you may still see differences when purchasing an auto insurance policy with higher limits. The standard coverage for mandatory third party auto liability in the CNMI is \$15,000 for bodily

injury per person, \$30,000 for bodily injury per accident, and \$15,000 for property damage per accident. These limits can increase upon request, but it will come with a price tag.

Your deductible can make a difference

One of the ways in which you can save on premium is to increase your deductible. Although it is not advisable to do so, it is one way to reduce premiums. A deductible is the amount that the insured or the policyholder must pay before the insurance company pays out for a claim.

Responsible driving at a young age

Not till the recent eradication of a CNMI law that required all new

drivers to pass driving school, the community felt most at ease by the thought of drivers having to go through a series of lectures and driving tests before obtaining a driver's license. For now, however, parents of first-time drivers should provide private lessons and establish rules to minimize the risk of a vehicular accident.

For more information on auto insurance covering drivers below the age of 25, call Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. at 234-6267 or visit their office located at Joeten Center in Susupe.

You may also visit www.pacificains.com or send an inquiry via email to piui@pacificains.com. Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is a general agent for Century Insurance and Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited. (Pacifica Insurance)

Open auditions for the Friends of the Arts Production of *Sleuth*

The Friends of the Art's last play of the year is coming up! The Anthony Shaffer mystery, *Sleuth*, will be performed on April 27, 28, and 29. The actors or aspiring actors in the community are invited to audition for a role. Here is your chance to be on the stage as part of this production. An intense Broadway drama, *Sleuth* will be directed by Harold Easton with Ruth Loyola as the line producer for the Friends of the Arts.

Auditions will take place this Wednesday, March 21, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Dolphin Theater, Building T, at Marianas High School. The play has five parts: two male leads and three male secondary or two male and one female secondary roles.

The roles require a range in ages from 18 to the 50-60s. The two male leads will be one older and one younger. Come to the auditions and try out. If you have never been in an FOA play—that's great—come in and make this your first. Previous FOA cast members are also invited.

Sleuth is a 1970 play written by Anthony Shaffer. The play is set in the Wiltshire, England manor house of Andrew Wyke, an immensely successful mystery writer. His home reflects Wyke's obsession with the inventions and deceptions of fiction and his fascination with games and game-playing.

He lures his wife's lover, Milo Tindle, to the house and convinces him to stage a robbery of her jewelry, a proposal that sets off a chain of events that leaves the audience trying to decipher where Wyke's imagination ends and reality begins.

The play's first production, starring Anthony Quayle and Keith Baxter, was at London's St Martin's Theatre. After four previews, the Broadway production, with Quayle and Baxter directed by Clifford Williams, opened on November 9, 1970 at the Music Box Theatre, where it ran for 1,222 performances.

In 1972, Shaffer adapted his play for film, directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, starring Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine. Another film adaptation was released in 2007 with a screenplay by Harold Pinter. The 2007 film was directed by Kenneth Branagh, starring Michael Caine and Jude Law as Milo Tindle, originally played by Caine in the 1972 version.

Sleuth was awarded the Tony Award for Best Play and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Performance with Anthony Quayle and Keith Baxter.

Interested individuals are encouraged to come and audition. You may also contact Frank Gibson at fgibson@yahoo.com or Harold Easton at eastonaa@hotmail.com. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 20, 2000

House okays FY2000 budget

Barely a month before Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio unveils his budget proposal for FY 2001, the House of Representatives began over the weekend floor deliberation on the current fiscal year's spending package which stalled last September over differences on how to spread the declining revenues. On Friday, House members approved the administration's projected revenue collection for FY 2000 at \$211.1 million, of which \$4.2 million will be set aside strictly for public lands' use. About \$204.6 million are expected to be generated from taxes, while \$2.4 million will come from the nonresident workers' fees. The estimated \$207 million available cash resources are appropriated to various departments and agencies for their budget.

Foreign investors inject \$3.5-M in NMI economy

Foreign investors pumped close to \$3.5 million in fresh capital into the Northern Marianas economy in three years through a variety of new business activities, a report from the commerce department's Foreign Investment Office disclosed. Between February 1997 and March 2000, Northern Marianas witnessed the entry of only 10 new foreign companies engaged in real estate, construction, computer consulting, wholesale, retail, furniture production and garment embroidery. Of all 10 companies, Transasian Corporation, which is into condominium and apartment complex construction invested the largest amount at \$2 million, while real estate developer Tejima International, Inc. infused \$250,000 into the business community.

Mar. 20, 2001

Chamber to picket Senate to press repeal of 3-year limit

Lawmakers' inaction on the repeal of the three-year limit law yesterday forced the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to picket the legislative building. At least 25 businessmen, led by Chamber President Anthony Pellegrino, went up to Capitol Hill and discussed with Senate Floor Leader Pete Reyes their sentiment on the Senate's seeming procrastination on House Bill 12-137. HB 12-137 seeks to repeal Public Law 11-69 or the three-year limit law in its entirety. "The three-year limit law was passed two years ago just to appease Washington, DC. The situation has changed since then. What I can't understand is why our senators are making a political football out of it. What is there to think about?" the chamber president noted.

CNMI offers firms new tax perks

The CNMI government is finalizing drafting of regulations that will pave the road for the implementation of a new set of tax incentives contained in a recently-signed law. The new incentives have been identified in fresh attempts by the government to revitalize the local economy by spurring growth in the private sector. The incentives can result in a 100 percent abatement of all local taxes and a 95 percent rebate of federal taxes for new businesses for up to 25 years. These regulations, which will accompany the Economic Incentive Act of 2000, will be released soon, according to officials.

Mar. 20, 2002

CRM takes part in confab on coast management

Personnel of the CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office recently attended two seminars in Silver Spring, Maryland, to discuss current program management issues affecting coastal management. The CRM personnel took part in the semi-annual Coastal States Organization (CSO) meeting and the 2002 Annual Coastal Zone Management Program Manager's Meeting that lasted from March 10 through 14 March to discuss current program management issues among the US CZM programs. Among those who participated in the meetings were CRM Acting Administrator Jack Salas; American Samoa Washington Rep. Peggy Salas; CRM Permit Manager and Coral Reef Point of Contact Becky Cruz Lizama; and Washington Rep. staff Walter Villagomez.

Legislature begins to move on wage hike

Both chambers of the CNMI Legislature will be coming out with a joint letter this week directing Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig and Rep. Andrew S. Salas to work together and come up with a legislation addressing the minimum wage issue. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said he has already met with House of Representatives Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and they have agreed to set Atalig and Salas to work on the recommendation of the Special Industry Committee to increase the minimum wage by 22 cents.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Jovina Cecilia N. Pua. Enjoy your day with many more to come. Greeting from the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to William Jr. Sablan Indalecio. Many more birthdays to come and best wishes on your day and I love you babe. Greetings from your one and only Aguida Camacho Villagomez.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 12th birthday to Trini Magofna. Hope you'll enjoy this special day and many more to come. Greetings from your mom, sisters, brothers, and your nieces and nephew.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Advance happy birthday to Kimberly Anne Indalecio, who is celebrating her special day tomorrow, March 21. Happy birthday also to Indalecio's godson Jetro, who is turning 6 years old today. May you both have a great day. Greetings from your brother and sis-in-law Aggy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to Vimbert Serman who is turning 6 years old today. Greetings from Mommy, Daddy, Santi, and Nathan. We love you and God bless!

Tonga's King Tupou V dies; introduced democracy

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Tonga's King George Tupou V, who gave up most of his powers to bring a more democratic government to his Pacific island nation, died Sunday at a Hong Kong hospital. He was 63.

Tongan Prime Minister Lord Siale'ataonga Tu'ivakano gave a brief address Monday announcing that the king had died at 3 p.m. Sunday, said Pesi Fonua, publisher of the Tongan news website Matangi Tonga. No cause of death was given.

The prime minister said the king's younger brother and heir to the throne, Crown Prince Tupouto'a Lavaka, was at the king's side when he died.

The king had a liver transplant last year and suffered other health problems, according to Tongan media reports. He had reigned over the island nation of 106,000 since father, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, died in 2006.

The father had long resisted ceding any powers of Tonga's absolute monarchy during his four-decade rule. But after his death, rioters unhappy with the pace of reforms took to the streets and destroyed the center of the capital, Nuku'alofa.

Against that backdrop, the new king delayed his official coronation until 2008 while he put together the framework for sweeping political reforms. Three days before the coronation ceremony, Tupou announced he was ceding most of his executive powers to a democratically elected parliament. The king remains head of state, and some parliament seats are reserved for nobility.

While the parliament is now responsible for much of the day-to-day running of the country, the king retains the right to veto laws, decree martial law and



In this July 31, 2008 file photo the Tonga's monarch, King George Tupou V, sits on his throne during the Royal Honors Investiture Ceremony in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

dissolve the parliament.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key released a statement Monday saying that he hopes the king's work leading Tonga toward democracy will continue.

"He believed that the monarchy was an instrument of change and can truly be seen as the architect of evolving democracy in Tonga. This will be his enduring legacy," Key said.

Tupou V did allow himself an elaborate coronation, a five-day-long affair that included roast pig feasts, tribal rites and British-style pomp. Its price tag of

\$2.5 million put a heavy strain on the impoverished nation.

He will be remembered by many for his throwback fashion choices—which included wearing, at times, a top hat and even a monocle. He studied at King's College in Auckland, New Zealand, and in Britain.

Fonua said the king also advocated for technologies such as mobile phones and the Internet, and made some enemies among conservative Tongans for his efforts to make the economy more market-driven and open to foreign competition and investment.

Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. (PR)

MHS Class of 1983 bowling night this Friday

Marianas High School Class of 1983 will be holding its bowling night on Friday, March 23, 6pm at the Capitol Bowling Center in Garapan. For more information, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. (PR)

SSHS PTA meeting tomorrow

Saipan Southern High School will be having its PTSA meeting tomorrow, March 21, beginning 6pm at the Manta Ray Café. (PR)

KagES PTSA meeting tomorrow

Kagman Elementary School has scheduled its PTSA night on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, beginning 6pm at the school cafeteria. Important matters will be discussed and parents are requested to make time to attend. (PR)

UOG College Nights March 19-22

The University of Guam hosts College Nights on March 19, 20, 21, and 22. All College Nights will be held in the UOG Student Center Food Court and will begin at 6pm. All graduating seniors and their parents are invited to attend any one of the College Nights to learn about steps to admission, placement tests, academic programs, and how to apply for financial aid. Applications will be on hand and administrators and faculty will be available for one-to-one discussions. For more information, contact Joan Swaddell at 735-2271. (UOG)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CUC schedules 7-hour water outage today at Koblerville

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is advising residents of Koblerville that a seven-hour water outage in their village is scheduled for today, March 20, from 9:30am to 4:30pm. The purpose of this outage is to allow CUC to perform repair work and to replace an existing valve on the well servicing Koblerville. CUC apologizes, in advance, for any inconvenience resulting from these projects and the water service interruption and humbly asks for the community's patience as they continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions. For more information, call the CUC Water & Wastewater Division at 322-5030. (CUC)

Free workshops start today at Chamber office

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, will presents free workshops on the following:

- How to start a business: March 20, 2012, from 9am to 11am
- How to write a business plan: March 21, 2012, from 9am to 11am
- Getting started in exporting: March 22, 2012, from 9am to 11am

All free workshops will be held at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, 1st Floor Familia Building, Garapan

For more information, contact Ralph or Linda at 664-3018. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities must be made 72 hours in advance.

join us on a fun adventure

saipanair, a new and locally owned airline company, is closing the distance between saipan and japan/china.

now hiring! 60 flight attendants

The position is a multi-task job requiring various skills. The successful candidate will perform important safety, security and service-related responsibilities and interact with a diverse group of customers and fellow employees. He/she must be able to work well independently as well as part of a team. This job requires:

- Minimum 21 years of age
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Basic computer literacy and ability to perform basic math skills
- Minimum of two years direct customer service experience
- Ability to hear, read, write and fluently speak and understand the English language
- Bilingual fluency (ability to speak, read and write) in Chinese Mandarin and Japanese is preferred
- Authorization to work in the United States and possession and maintenance of a valid United States passport or foreign passport with applicable visas
- Ability to pass a FAA-required ten-year work history review and a criminal background check and willingness to submit to fingerprinting
- Ability to comprehend and retain information pertinent to the position
- Ability to pass a rigorous training program
- Willingness to work holidays, weekends, nights and extended hours
- Willingness to work on "reserve" status for a long duration
- Reliable transportation to and from the airport

The summary of essential job functions is as follows:

- Work in accordance with established procedures and performance standards and ensure compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulations
- Prepare and serve meals and beverages, sell onboard liquor and duty-free items
- Assist customers with carry-on items
- Ensure safety and comfort of passengers
- Respond and provide leadership during an emergency, including aircraft evacuation and unusual situations (bomb threats, hijackings, delayed flights, severe weather conditions, turbulent flights, etc.)
- Respond to customer medical situations and administer first aid to ill or incapacitated customers
- Maintain order and handle unruly or irate customers
- Work irregular days and hours with the ability to travel to all countries to which Saipan Air flies
- Comply with Saipan Air attendance policy

Additional duties may be added as required by the operational needs of Saipan Air. As Flight Attendants represent Saipan Air to our customers, applicants are expected to have specific qualifications and meet certain requirements:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good judgment • Excellent dependability • Exceptional interpersonal skills • Caring and nurturing disposition • Ability to accept personal responsibility for resolving concerns • Strong work ethic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good service orientation • Excellent communication skills • Friendly and polite in all situations • Ability to handle pressure in stressful situations • Physical agility and strength for assisting customers and their luggage |
|---|--|

Additional job requirements:

- Minimum height of 5'0" and maximum height of 6'3" without shoes
- Height and weight proportionate to maintain professional appearance; body size cannot exceed specific aircraft dimensions (example: jump seat, harness without modification, cabin aisle and emergency exits)
- Vision correctable to 20/40 or better (uncorrected 20/200 or better)
- Push and pull beverage/meal cart (150-250 pounds)
- Lift liquor kit (up to 43 pounds)
- Lift emergency window exit (up to 60 pounds)
- Open emergency door (91-126 pounds stress)

Employment will be contingent upon successful completion of a six to eight-week training program and a post-job offer examination. The FAA requires a drug screening for Flight Attendant applicants. Saipan Air requires employees to submit to drug/alcohol testing randomly throughout their employment. Employment is contingent upon a cleared drug screen according to FAA and Saipan Air standards.

If you meet the above-mentioned qualifications and the employment conditions are acceptable to you, please send your resume to hdsaipanair@tanholdings.com. Application forms can be obtained at the Job Fair on March 23, 2012 at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan. Early submission of application documents is highly encouraged.

saipanair

Saipan Air is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Congress should support effort to recover legal rights

Against formidable odds and a range of powerful opponents, including the White House, Holocaust survivors are finally starting to make progress in their fight to win the right to sue European insurance companies for benefits they have been denied for more than half a century.

The refusal to honor those obligations is bad enough, but the denial of the right to sue adds further injury. It violates a principle that every American considers a fundamental birthright — the ability to go to court to seek redress of a legitimate grievance.

This unusual provision was part of an agreement to create the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, which came into being in 1998 with the blessing of the Clinton administration. The agreement has been upheld by the courts, including the Supreme Court, and strongly defended by both the Bush and Obama administrations down to the present day.

But that doesn't make it right. Holocaust survivors—an aging and diminishing population, many in their 80s and 90s—have not been treated fairly.

The idea was that an overall, legally binding settlement would preclude further lawsuits against insurance companies and, once and forever, close the books on a scandalous breach of honor and business protocol that came to light at the end of World War II. By the time the commission closed shop in 2007, however, only a fraction of the looted funds was recovered by the individual owners or heirs.

The International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims paid out about \$305 million, and an additional \$200 million went to humanitarian programs for survivors. This is less than 3 percent of the amount owed to victims and their families—estimated today at \$20 billion.

David Schaecter, 82, who survived the death camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald and heads the Miami-based Holocaust Survivors Foundation USA, says the commission agreement allows insurance companies to avoid their obligations and turns the survivors into second-class citizens.

Five years ago, legislation was introduced in Congress to recover their legal rights, but it went nowhere thanks to opposition from the U.S. and German governments, which essentially argue that a deal is a deal; other parties to the original agreement, including major Jewish organizations in this country; and insurance companies like Allianz, Generali, AXA that have never been held accountable for their misdeeds.

This month may have been a turning point, though. A bipartisan effort led by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Miami, was unanimously approved by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which she heads.

But that was just the first test. The Judiciary Committee, whose members include Rep. Ted Deutch, D-Boca Raton, another strong supporter, is the next stop. A companion bill in the upper chamber lists Sens. Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio of Florida as co-sponsors.

Both efforts are sure to encounter harder and louder resistance from opponents as they go forward. The State Department has aggressively lobbied against the bill. It told the committee that the legislation would “weaken our ability to achieve such settlements in the future.”

Let's hope so. The bill should be passed by Congress and signed by the president, to redress a grievous harm and serve as a reminder that it's wrong to deny legal rights to an entire class of citizens and should never be tolerated.

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The object lesson

When CUC finally cut off the electric power to PSS' central offices and schools, the howl most heard around the island was the blame game, which is a locomotive that verbally and circularly goes around driven mostly by the well-off and the personally unaffected who remain protected in the comfort of their homes, some minions even equipped with back-up generators to tide over the occasional brown out.

I recall the time students failed to report to SVES class because their parents were convinced that the DPRK was lodging a deadly missile into the U.S. military facilities that day! Sixth grade Social Studies focuses on ancient civilization but the textbook ends with the Cold War, including the Korean conflict.

It was an opportune chance to connect the historical dots of the peninsula from the ancient Goguryeo empire in Dong Bei to Nippon in Manchukuo (Manchuria), the Korean civil war, dugout Doug's post-WWII surprise quagmire, the unexpected but understandable Zhongguo Yalu crossing by the youthful Red Army, on to Panmunjom armistice, and contemporaneously, to the ill-fated collaboration of Korean manufacturing, Chinese labor, American marketing and Japanese finance in the much-lamented CNMI garment industry.

News accounts regarding the PSS power shutout only carried the now foul smelling scent of the blame game, but I know of colleagues at PSS who would not have been remiss in their pedagogical duties in picking up the “reality” factor and made an object lesson out of it.

Many saw the handwriting on the wall regarding the imposition of the assessment based NCLB accountability solely on standardized test on students and teachers as the death knell of meaningful and interactive education. We are now hearing horror stories out of public schools trying to comply with requirements for funding, and merely training their clientele to pass tests.

A school nurse colleague in Texas wrote recently of incidences of teachers and students “throwing up” on test days and laments that though counselors concede that only 60 percent of the students are comfortable in navigating through written tests as a means of assessment, 40 percent remain on the outside experiencing all kinds of psychosomatic disorders, consigned to the terrain of being certifiably “unqualified non-passers”!

I am reminded when I shared with fellow teachers seeking PRAXIS assistance on how attitude in the test room determines much of the result, more than memorized answers of pat questions. Anxiety prone on my first try, scrambling to review without success what patently was a lifetime of learning, I passed the requirement on a score clearly nothing to write home about. I tried second-guessing “right” answers rather than use my common sense.

After an extended bout of cervical spondylosis where I left my teaching post to seek alternative medical attention other than the recommended surgical scalpel, I returned medically cleared and tried returning to the classroom. I decided to take the Social Stud-

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



ies PRAXIS for the High and Middle Schools, relying solely on anxiety-less chutzpah.

My method was simple. Without lifting a page out of the review books, I went into NMC's test room deciding that I already knew 50 percent of the stuff (otherwise I had no business teaching the subject). That left the issue of the remaining half.

A good standardized test of multiple choices usually set two answers out of four to be recognizably incorrect. That leaves two answers to choose from, and discarding the incorrect choices, statistical probability expects one to get half of the remaining questions answered correctly. Sum, 50 from confidence and 25 from guessing = a decent 75, way beyond the passing grade!

Needless to say, my above 95-percentile rating did not get me hired back to PSS but that's another story already told many times. Besides, the “reality” led to options, and we are now merrily doing pedagogy in China.

The object lesson in any learning is the grounding and matter-of-fact acceptance of the “reality” factor, such as the irrational fear of Uncle Sam's grunts on Kim Jung II. Similarly, an electrical powerless PSS is an occasion to look at Saipan's whole social process grounded on “the way life is,” its economic foundations, political dynamics, and cultural accretions.

Were I in Jacqui Q's shoes (if she is still the C-girl), I would encourage teachers to facilitate a description of daily CNMI experiences (see, hear, smell, taste, touch), get literal expressions of resulting feelings (joy and anger, pleasure and pain), catalyze an exchange of cognitive perspectives within an iterative framework, and facilitate clear images of what can be done in response, personally. No moralism here, just the facts, Jack!

Ruth Tighe, the on-island venerable librarian and maven of cogent thoughts and clear writing, was gracious enough to point out in her blog that CUC's survival precedes any other priority given their function, adding that health and retirement might trump claims from free and appropriate education.

For pedagogues, object lessons are best learned when grounded in reality; then deciding the necessary deed. Leave the blame game to politicians; their casino delusion will be here a while!

PSS' Student First is clear enough; grounded in reality is the pedagogical order of the day!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Saipan Leadership Memorial Kios-ku:

Revitalizing Community Partnership in the Neighborhood

By **RAMON BLAS CAMACHO**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Second in a three-part series

The council's focus on village reclamation through partnerships with residents and the greater community is aimed at enabling the neighborhood to be safe, clean, robust, and sustainable. Identifying and rehabilitating neglected heritage assets around the villages is key in revitalizing the neighborhood on Saipan.

One such project set for ribbon cutting this year is the revitalization of the kios-ku in Chalan Kanoa, the site of the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kios-ku located in the heart of Chalan Kanoa, the capital town of Saipan across the United States Post Office.

In March of 2008, the local council requested then-Secretary of the Department of Public Lands, John Del Rosario, for a Grant of Public Domain to the kios-ku for Saipan's first Leadership Memorial Kios-ku project. Two months later that year, the DPL chief agreed, but made the actual deed contingent on certain conditions. These conditions included securing a perimeter survey of the property, recording the approved survey plat at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, and submission of the kios-ku site development plan.

Wasting little time, the council formed a community partnership group. The pioneering community partnership team included former Saipan Mayor Frank Diaz, former Speaker of the Saipan Municipal Council Vicente Camacho, former Speaker of the Marianas District Legislature Vicente Santos, former mayor Joe Rios and former CNMI Legislature Representative Moses Fejeran, to name a few. Robert Hunter, Director of the Commonwealth Museum, also a founding member, headed the program committee.

Brian Smith, former staff at the Department of Public Work (DPW) headed the site development plan committee. Other early Kios-ku pioneering members included Steve Tilley, former Saipan zoning administrator and Therese Ogumoro, Herman Tudela and John Palacios from the Historic Preservation Office (HPO), the late Gonzalo Santos, former Special Assistant for the Indigenous Affairs Office and replaced by Ike Demapan, present special assistant, Angie Mangerero, Special Assistant for Carolinian Affairs, Ben Borja and Victor Guerrero from Forestry Division, Jean Sablan, a citizen representative, among others.

Jack Songsong from DLNR Survey Division and his team of surveyors conducted the necessary survey work while Darrel Songsong from the Department of Public Work (DPW) supervised the architectural rendering.

Members of the pioneering Saipan Municipal Council include former council chairwoman Antonia Tudela, former councilman Felipe Atalig, and former vice chairman and now chairman Ramon Camacho. Present council vice chairman/secretary Eric Demapan and councilman Ralph Yumul are also part of the kios-ku community partnership team.

Almost all of the core group's pioneering meetings were held at the museum during the formative conceptual stages of the kios-ku planning and development.

Every two weeks following DPL's notice of the kios-ku designation in June 2008, the pioneering core group worked under a highly compressed work schedule. Bi-weekly meetings were held for an hour at a time at the Commonwealth Museum. The hour-long meetings were focused on laying the project scope of work; brainstorming possible scenarios for the project rehabilitation plan; and reviewing different facility design drawings. The goal was to have a design that not only captures Saipan's political history and what it meant to the people, but also one that depicts local leadership during the pre-commonwealth period up to the present time.

Just as important to the pioneering group was to have a design that would preserve the functionality of the kios-ku and make the entire facility environmentally friendly and a green development model project. For instance, instead of fossil fuel-powered lighting system, the lighting fixtures would be powered by solar energy. On the other hand, the toilet facility will not completely rely on city



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 11th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council members pose with CNMI Museum director Robert Hunter, right.

water. Non-point water sources from man-made ponding basin and water storage tank will hold the water for toilet flushing and irrigating ground covers, native trees, surrounding palm trees, and the ornamental flowers. The existing giant monkey pot trees will not be removed. Instead, the giant trees will be used for shade and conservation measures, an integral part of the overall landscaping design.

Then zoning-czar Steve Tilley impressed on the pioneering core group the need for a kios-ku public parking. The initial design called for a single entry to and exit out of the public parking, in order to minimize if not prevent vehicular mishaps. The design was later changed to accommodate large number of student visitors in school buses and tourists in tour vans and buses. A flood mitigation drainage system is also part of the overall design.

Installing parking meters and using the proceeds for the maintenance of the parking and surrounding ambience was considered, but the idea did not gain the support of the pioneering core group. Solar-operated ground and overhead lamp were both integrated into the design, thereby making the kios-ku environmentally friendly but later budget constraints changed that aspect of the site development plan.

Former Mayor Frank Diaz, during one of the pioneering meetings had argued that the present roundhouse was not authentic. The former mayor pointed out that the true kios-ku was a little closer to the main road across the present post office. Unlike the "original" kios-ku, which was an elevated wooden structure with circular-shaped and downward sloping roof, the structure that existed then has circular-shaped concrete flat roof. The former mayor suggested the entire structure be replaced with the original replica of the building and relocated to the same exact location where it once was.

Tenth councilman Felipe Atalig, on the other hand, expressed concern about replacing the existing kios-ku structure and recommended that it be rehabilitated instead. The Department of Public Work, however, insisted the facility was not structurally sound and to be demolished. Tenth Council Chairwoman Antonia Tudela, for her part, shared the concerns by former Mayor Diaz and recognized the point raised by Atalig but agreed with DPW's recommendation.

Embedded in the original project design was a proposed brick pathway at the main entrance to the parking lot and the kios-ku visitor center. The brick overlay drive is supposed to be restricted for kios-ku visitors and emergency vehicles (ambulance, fire trucks, EMO, etc.). The kios-ku perimeter, including the public parking area, will see trees interspersed and accentuated by native floral combination. A three-foot ornamental fence would add protection around the kios-ku from the constant traffic flow in and out of Chalan Kanoa and the Chalan Kanoa post office.

The pioneering site development design incorporated a concierge inside the visitor center. The concierge is intended to facilitate inbound and out-bound traffic to the kios-ku. For convenience, a public restroom is provided at the rear end of the courtyard. Water for flushing toilets will be drawn from non-point water run-offs with city water used only when needed.

At the center of the kios-ku is the main rotunda. North of the rotunda facing the post office stands rows of granite plates embedded to the concrete stalls facing outward in a semi-circular fashion.

Etched on the granite are past and contemporary local leaders welcoming visitors to the center. A pedestrian access leading to and from the memorial kios-ku is part of the conceptual design as well.

Inside the kios-ku area will be covered by spreads of Bermuda grass, professionally landscaped borders, dry garden, and native plants and trees. Stone pavers that lead visitors to the gazebos and benches around the kios-ku not only accentuates the facilities inside the kios-ku but also links the different features in an harmonious fashion. Concessionaires occupying the gazebos will have ample opportunities to provide hot lunches and cold drinks to visitors for a price. Local arts and crafts may be available in the visitor center for sale by local vendors. A mini photo museum and gallery at the visitor center will offer visitors some glimpses of history from pre-commonwealth to the present. Audio/video storybook detailing the history of local leadership may be offered upon availability.

Fronting the Tun Segunda Road is a centrally-located flag pole that will hoist the U.S., CNMI and the Municipality of Saipan flags before the granite nameplates display of local leaders as the kios-ku's centerpiece.

Finally, though not part of the on-going construction for phase three, the design calls for the Chalan Kanoa entrance to be landscaped alongside the concrete walkways leading to the kios-ku area, further accentuating the historic significance of the memorial kios-ku. When additional funds are identified, a 25-foot high semi-circle gateway arc will be constructed at the foot of the Chalan Kanoa main entryway on Tun Segundo Road. The design is intended to herald Saipan's village heritage tourism in Chalan Kanoa.

In the end, the kios-ku also heralds the instrumental role by local resident leaders in the political advancement and modernization of the Commonwealth. The kios-ku is a place where present and future generations of Saipan residents and visitors will visit and become familiar with the invaluable contributions of local leaders in the political and socio-economic evolution of the island.

For many years since becoming a Commonwealth, local residents have been schooled of leaders and about leaders and heroes who are foreign conquerors, those who notably hailed from Spain, Germany, Japan and the U.S. naval administration, including representatives of the United Nations and the United States.

The kios-ku resurrects the historical myopia missing in our collective narrative by adding a new dimension to our collective memory, where local residents and visitors will be able to identify, relate to and recognize local leadership. Indeed, the kios-ku is history in itself, a place where history is captured as it unfolds, and a place where history will pass judgment upon local leaders. The kios-ku is only the beginning in revitalizing community partnership in the neighborhood which showcases the vast historic assets Saipan offers in the inner villages, making the inner villages unique visitor and learning centers for island residents and visitors to appreciate and learn from and also promotes environmental stewardship and ultimately builds sustainable communities that thrive on their unique historic characteristics.

Ramon Blas Camacho is chairman of the 11th Saipan & N. Islands Municipal Council.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79

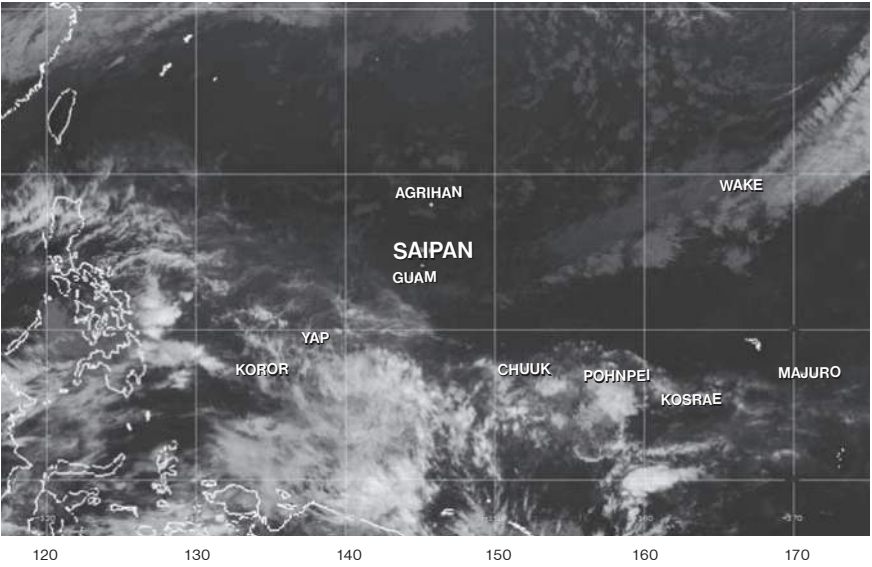
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 60
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 35
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 69
London	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 50
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 53
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 68
New York	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 44
Osaka	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 42
Paris	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 42
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 44
Rome	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 48
Salem	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 48
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 34
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 43
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 49

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
1:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
7:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
1:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet	
7:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line enters the discussion area near 20N180 and stretches southwestward to 18N170E and continues south of Wake Island to 16N160E to end southeast of Guam near 11N147E. Patchy clouds and showers can be found along and up to 200 miles north of the boundary. A surface trough of low pressure extends from 7N130E to 4N135E to a weak circulation near 4N149E to end at the equator near 156E. Scattered showers occurring north of the trough can be found across portions of Chuuk state between 5N and 8N from 142E to 148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can also be found south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 150E to 162E and between the equator and 2N from 138E to 142E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers around Kosrae between 3N and 7N from 162E to 168E and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands between 5N and 8N from 168E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:25 AM	4:32 PM
Wednesday	5:04 AM	5:21 PM
Thursday	5:42 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:20 AM	6:57 PM
Saturday	6:58 AM	7:45 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5		C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5	
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)					ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5		C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5	
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP		C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP	
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6		C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6	
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6		C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily		DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX	
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6	
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5		DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN		DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM	
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM		C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM		C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau		OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM						
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN		OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN		C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana									
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Research firm: New iPad more expensive to make

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple appears to be making less of a profit from each new iPad than it did when it launched the previous model a year ago, according to a research firm's analysis.

IHS iSuppli took apart a new iPad on Friday, the day the device went on sale in the U.S. and nine other countries, and found that the components are more expensive than those of the iPad 2.

The third iPad comes in several versions starting at \$499, the same price as the iPad 2 at launch.

Apple has priced all three generations of the tablet aggressively, making it hard for competitors to match its features at the same price. It makes less from each iPad than from each iPhone.

As a whole, Apple is wildly profitable, earning \$33 billion

in net income on \$81 billion in revenue in the last calendar year.

iSuppli said a new iPad with 32 gigabytes of RAM and a cellular modem, which costs \$729 in stores, costs \$364.35 to manufacture. That's 9 percent more than the \$335 it cost to make the corresponding iPad 2 a year ago, when it came out.

The corresponding version of the first iPad cost about \$276 to make in 2010, according to iSuppli's estimate.

The higher-resolution display and the larger battery needed to support it are the main reasons the new iPad is more expensive than the iPad 2. It has four times as many pixels as the iPad 2's screen. iSuppli estimates the display costs Apple \$87, plus \$40 for the touch-sensitive layer.

The new iPad battery has 70 percent more capacity, but the new display consumes all that

additional power, so the battery life is the same as for the old model.

Also contributing to the cost increase is the new cellular modem in some models. It can use faster "4G LTE" networks in the U.S. and Canada.

Samsung Electronics Co. remains the largest single supplier of iPad components. It made the display in the unit iSuppli examined and it supplies all iPad processors. iSuppli suspects Samsung also made the battery and supplies flash storage memory for some versions of the new iPad.

In fact, half of the new iPad's "bill of materials" may be for Samsung components, iSuppli said.

Apple and Samsung don't comment on their business relationships.

Samsung also makes its own

tablets and they have succeeded better than most competitors.

iSuppli's cost estimate does not include packaging or over-

head costs like design, marketing and software.



AP

This March 16, 2012 file photo shows a customer talking with an Apple worker, in blue, inside an Apple store on the first day of the launch of the new iPad, in San Francisco.

Report: Syria arms imports surge thanks to Russia

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Syria imported nearly six times more weapons in 2007-2011 than in the previous five-year period, with Russia accounting for 72 percent of the arms supplies to President Bashar Assad's regime, an international research institute said Monday.

The report on global arms transfers by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute highlighted how Moscow continues to provide Syria with weapons even as the U.S., the European Union and others impose arms embargoes due to the regime's violent crackdown on protesters.

It did not specify the volume of weapons exports after the start of the uprising in 2011.

Major Russian arms deliveries to Syria in 2007-2011 included air defense systems and anti-ship missiles, which have no direct use in the current unrest in the Arab state. But they have upgraded the regime's capability to defend against outside intervention, SIPRI researcher Pieter Wezeman said.

"They increase the risks involved in and therefore the

threshold for foreign military intervention like the NATO operation against the Gadhafi regime" in Libya, Wezeman said.

Syria has outstanding orders for 25 Russian MIG-29 combat aircraft, and in late 2011 Russia signed a \$550 million deal for 36 Yak-130 light combat aircraft, he said, adding that questions remain about the timing of the deliveries and Syria's ability to pay for them.

"However, when delivered the combat aircraft would augment the Syrian military's capabilities to attack rebel positions if the conflict develops in a similar way as the conflict in e.g. Libya developed," Wezeman said in an email to The Associated Press.

The U.N. estimates that Assad's crackdown on the uprising against his regime that began a year ago has killed more than 8,000 people so far.

Syria's weapons imports rose 580 percent from the 2002-2006 period, lifting the country from No. 68 to 33 in the rankings of the world's arms importers, SIPRI said. Nineteen percent of Syria's arms imports came from

Belarus and 9 percent from Iran, the report said.

Globally, the report showed conventional weapons transfers jumped 24 percent in 2007-2011, with the U.S. remaining the No. 1 weapons exporter, followed by Russia, Germany, France and Britain.

India, South Korea, Pakistan, China and Singapore were the five largest recipients of arms.

The Arab Spring had only a limited effect on global arms sales in 2011, even though it "provoked public and parliamentary debate in a number of supplier states," SIPRI said. It noted that Saudi Arabia's order last year of 154 F-15 combat aircraft from the U.S. was the largest arms deal in two decades.

The institute has developed its own indicator values to measure volumes of arms transfers. Its database includes major conventional weapons such as aircraft, armored vehicles, artillery, sensors, missiles, ships and air defense systems. Trucks, small arms, ammunition and most light weapons are not included.

investment for at least two decades.

Reports: UPS finalizing \$6.8B deal for TNT

NEW YORK (AP)—UPS has reached or is close to reaching a deal to buy European package delivery company TNT Express, according to media reports Sunday. The online editions of the Financial Times and The Wall Street Journal said the deal could be announced Monday. They put the price tag around \$6.8 billion, or (EURO)5.2 billion. The newspapers cited unnamed people familiar with the talks. The offer equates to (EURO)9.50 per share. A month ago, TNT rejected an "informal" offer from United Parcel Service Inc. at (EURO)9 per share. TNT shares closed Friday at (EURO)9.35.

4 GOP-appointed justices control health law's fate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Here's a thought that can't comfort President Barack Obama: The fate of his health care overhaul rests with four Republican-appointed Supreme Court justices.

His most sweeping domestic achievement could be struck down if they stand together with Justice Clarence Thomas, another GOP appointee who is the likeliest vote against.

But the good news for Obama is that he probably needs only one of the four to side with him to win approval of the law's crucial centerpiece, the requirement that almost everyone in this country has insurance or pays a penalty.

Lawyers with opposing views of the issue uniformly agree that the four Democratic-appointed justices, including Obama's two picks, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, will have no trouble concluding that Congress did not overstep its authority in adopting the insurance requirement that is aimed at sharply reducing the now 50 million people without insurance.

On the other side, Thomas has made clear in several cases that he does not take an expansive view of Congress' powers.

Both the Obama administration and the health care law's challengers believe they can attract the other four Republicans to their side. The group includes Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, the two appointees of President George W. Bush who have swung the court to the right in a number of areas; conservative stalwart Antonin Scalia; and the less doctrinaire Anthony Kennedy.

There is no consensus in the legal and academic worlds which

way the court will go or even how each of those four justices will vote. The court has set aside six hours over three days, beginning March 26, to hear arguments.

But a legal challenge, once seen as improbable at best, now has everyone's attention, partly because the justices find it weighty enough to devote six hours over three days to hearing the case. That's the most time for any issue in more than 45 years. "Arguments that once seemed outlandish don't seem quite so outlandish anymore," said University of Michigan law professor Nicholas Bagley, a health law expert who says the law should be upheld.

The fight over the law has played out in starkly partisan terms. It passed Congress without a Republican vote. All the GOP presidential candidates have called for its repeal.

Some supporters of the law worry about the high court's decision because a similar partisan split, with a few important exceptions, has emerged in the lower courts.

"I think as a constitutional matter, this should be an easy case," said Erwin Chemerinsky, a liberal scholar and dean of the law school at the University of California, Irvine. "But every judge appointed by a Republican president, with two exceptions, has voted to strike the law down. And every judge appointed by a Democratic president, with one exception, has voted to uphold the law. Thus, the real issue is whether the Republican-appointed justices will overcome ideology and vote to uphold the law."

Among lawyers who appear regularly before the Supreme

Court, Carter Phillips of Sidley Austin LLP offered a fairly typical response in predicting the court is more likely to uphold the law than strike it down. But he was far from certain.

"I have no doubt that if the court strikes down the statute, it will be 5-4," Phillips said. "But if the court upholds the statute, it would not shock me if the decision turned out not to be 5-4. I would be somewhat surprised if Justices Thomas and Scalia both did not vote to strike down the law, but I certainly believe that Justice Alito and the chief" could vote to sustain it.

In the view of Phillips and other lawyers, Kennedy is the most likely Republican to vote in favor of the law. He often provides the decisive vote in cases that divide the court by ideology.

But his record in cases involving Congress' constitutional power to regulate commerce offers both sides some hope. Kennedy was part of the majority that struck down a federal law prohibiting people from carrying guns in or near schools. That 1995 ruling was the first time since the New Deal that the court limited Congress' power under the Commerce Clause.

The 26 states and private parties challenging the health care law peppered their briefs with references to Kennedy's writing in the guns case and another decision, from 2010, in which he took a narrower view than the majority of Congress' power to act in an area not spelled out in the Constitution. The court upheld Congress' authority to continue to hold inmates considered "sexually dangerous" even after they completed their prison terms.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lawyers step to plate in NYC Madoff-Mets contest

NEW YORK (AP)—The trustee recovering money for investors swindled by Bernard Madoff may need a perfect pitch to a jury Monday to force the New York Mets owners to pay up to \$303 million to repay victims cheated of billions of dollars during the financier's decades-long fraud. U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff says he's skeptical that lawyers for Trustee Irving Picard can succeed in convincing a nine-person civil jury that the Mets owners believed that Madoff's business was a fraud but continued their investments anyway because they were making a lot of money. Lawyers for the owners insist their clients had no idea the former NASDAQ chairman was cheating thousands of investors of their roughly \$20 billion

Nation

Lawyer for Afghan killings suspect to visit him

SEATTLE (AP)—With formal charges looming against his client within days, the lawyer for an Army sergeant suspected in the horrific nighttime slaughter of 16 Afghan villagers flew to Kansas and was preparing for

his first face-to-face meeting with the 10-year veteran.

John Henry Browne of Seattle said he planned to meet Monday with Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, who is being held in an isolated cell at Fort Leavenworth's military prison.

Bales, 38, hasn't been charged in the March 11 shootings, which have endangered relations between the U.S. and Afghanistan and threaten to upend U.S. policy over the decade-old war. But for-

mal charges are expected to be filed within a week and if the case goes to court the trial will be held in the United States, said a legal expert with the U.S. military familiar with the investigation.

That expert said charges were still being decided and that the location for any trial had not yet been determined. If the suspect is brought to trial, it is possible that Afghan witnesses and victims would be flown to the United States to participate, he said.

Military lawyers say once attorneys involved in the initial investigation of an alleged crime involving a service member have what they believe to be a solid understanding of what happened

and are satisfied with the evidence collected, they draft charges and present them to a commander. That person then makes a judgment on whether there is probable cause to believe that an offense was committed and that the accused committed it.

That commander then "prefers" the charges to a convening authority, who typically is the commander of the brigade to which the accused is assigned but could be of higher rank.

Bales' defense team said in a statement late Saturday that "it is too early to determine what factors may have played into this incident and the defense team looks forward to review-

ing the evidence, examining all of Sergeant Bales' medical and personnel records, and interviewing witnesses."

The lawyers' statement also said Bales' family was "stunned in the face of this tragedy, but they stand behind the man they know as a devoted husband, father and dedicated member of the armed services."

Military officials have said that Bales, after drinking on a southern Afghanistan base, crept away March 11 to two slumbering villages overnight, shooting his victims and setting many of them on fire. Nine of the 16 killed were children and 11 belonged to one family.



In this Aug. 23, 2011 Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System photo, Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, 1st platoon sergeant, Blackhorse Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division participates in an exercise at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Report: US makes modest gains in graduation rate

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP)—The last straw for 17-year-old Alton Burke was a note left on his door. The high school dropout picked up the phone and re-enrolled at South Hagerstown High.

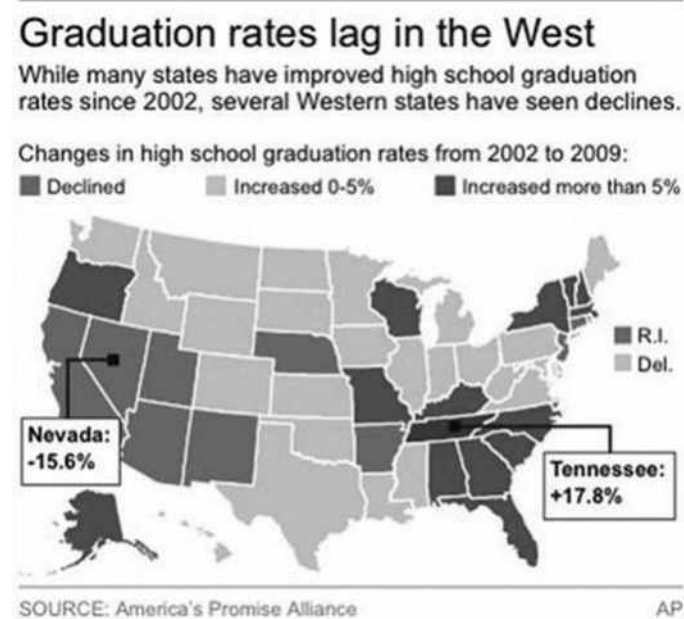
Burke missed roughly 200 days of class, but Heather Dixon, the student intervention specialist who left the note, never gave up on him.

Aggressive efforts to prevent students such as Burke from dropping out contributed to a modest 3.5 percentage point increase nationally in the high school graduation rate from 2001 to 2009, according to research to be presented Monday at the Grad Nation summit in Washington. The event was organized by the children's advocacy group America's Promise Alliance founded by former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The graduation rate was 75 percent in 2009, meaning 1 in 4 students fails to get a diploma in four years, researchers found. That's well below the organization's goal of 90 percent by 2020.

Researchers found that the number of "dropout factories," schools that fail to graduate more than 60 percent of students on time, had dropped by more than 450 between 2002 and 2010, but that 1,550 remain.

"Big gains are possible if you work hard at it, and if you don't



focus on it, you're going to go backward," said Robert Balfanz, a report author and director of the Everyone Graduates Center at the School of Education at Johns Hopkins University.

The increase in graduation rates was primarily because of growth in 12 states, with New York and Tennessee showing double digit gains since 2002, according to the research. At the other end, 10 states had declines: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, New Jersey, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Rhode Island and Utah.

So far, only Wisconsin has met the 90 percent benchmark, although Vermont is close.

"This year's report proves

struggling schools are not destined to fail," said Education Secretary Arne Duncan. "The reality is that even one dropout factory is too many."

The authors said there are proven strategies to tackle the problem, such as getting all students to read at grade level, raising the compulsory school attendance age to 18 and developing "early warning" systems to help identify students that might be at risk of later dropping out.

In his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama encouraged states to pass laws to require students to stay in school until they graduate or they turn 18.

Many willing to cut Afghan shooting suspect slack

By ALLEN G. BREED
AP NATIONAL WRITER

He is accused of the kind of crime that makes people shiver, the killing of families in their own homes under cover of night, the butchery of defenseless children. Under normal circumstances, Americans would dismiss such an act as worthy of only one response: swift and merciless punishment.

Not so in the case of Robert Bales—at least, not for some Americans.

So far, many seem willing to believe that a 10-year U.S. military veteran, worn down by four tours of combat and perhaps suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, simply snapped. That somehow there must be, if not an excuse, at least an explanation.

Exactly what set off the Army sergeant accused of massacring 16 civilians in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province is far from clear. But already, organizations and individuals with differing agendas have portrayed Bales as the personification of something that is profoundly broken, and have seized on his case to question

the war itself or to argue that the American government is asking too much of its warriors.

On the website of Iraq Veterans Against the War, organizer Aaron Hughes declared that Afghan war veterans "believe that this incident is not a case of one 'bad apple' but the effect of a continued U.S. military policy of drone strikes, night raids, and helicopter attacks where Afghan civilians pay the price." Those veterans, he wrote, "hope that the Kandahar massacre will be a turning point" in the war.

"Send a letter to the editor of your local paper condemning the massacre and calling for an end to our occupation in Afghanistan," Hughes wrote.

On March 11, authorities say, Bales, a 38-year-old married father of two from Washington state, stalked through two villages, gunned down civilians and attempted to burn some of the bodies. The dead included nine children.

In Lake Tapps, Wash., neighbors knew Bales as a patriot, a friendly guy who loved his wife and kids, and a man who never complained about the sacrifices his country repeat-

edly asked of him. They find it hard to believe he could be capable of such depravity.

"I kind of sympathize for him, being gone, being sent over there four times," said Beau Britt, who lives across the street. "I can understand he's probably quite wracked mentally, so I just hope that things are justified in court. I hope it goes OK."

Paul Wohlberg, who lives next door to the Baleses, said: "I just can't believe Bob's the guy who did this. A good guy got put in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Talk like that infuriates Fred Wellman, a retired Army lieutenant colonel from Fredericksburg, Va., who did three tours in Iraq. He said comments like those of Bales' neighbors and his attorney simply feed into the notion of "the broken veteran."

Wellman does not deny that 10 years of war have severely strained the service. But while others might see Bales as a wounded soul, Wellman sees a man who sneaked off base to commit his alleged crimes, then had the presence of mind to "lawyer up" as soon as he was caught.

Romney wins Puerto Rico, GOP campaign continues

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Mitt Romney scored an overwhelming win Sunday in Puerto Rico's Republican presidential primary, trouncing chief rival Rick Santorum on the Caribbean island even as the two rivals looked ahead to more competitive contests this week in Illinois and Louisiana.

The victory in the U.S. territory was so convincing that Romney, the GOP front-runner, won all 20 delegates to the national convention at stake because he got more than 50 percent of the vote. That padded his comfortable lead over Santorum in the race to amass 1,144 delegates to clinch the nomination.

Nevertheless, the GOP nomination fight is unlikely to end anytime soon, with Santorum refusing to step aside even though Romney is pulling further ahead in the delegate hunt.

As the day began, Santorum claimed he was in contest for the long haul because Romney is a weak front-runner.

"This is a primary process where somebody had a huge advantage, huge money advantage, huge advantage of establishment support and he hasn't been able to close the deal and even come close to closing the deal," Santorum said. "That tells you that there's a real flaw there."

Yet, Santorum sidestepped

when asked if he would fight Romney on the convention floor if he failed before August to stop the former Massachusetts governor from getting the required number of delegates.

Romney, in turn, expressed confidence that he'd prevail.

"I can't tell you exactly how the process is going to work," Romney said. "But I bet I'm going to become the nominee."

Both are aggressively competing in the next two states to vote. Illinois, a more moderate Midwestern state, is seen as more friendly territory for Romney, while Santorum is the favorite in the more conservative Southern state of Louisiana.

Asia

Thousands mourn Tibetan self-immolator in China

BEIJING (AP)—Thousands of Tibetans gathered to mourn a farmer who died after setting himself on fire to protest Chinese rule in Tibetan areas, a U.S. broadcaster said.

A London-based rights group said the funeral Saturday turned into a protest march, with thousands calling for freedom and the return to Tibet of the Dalai Lama, their exiled spiritual leader. The incident, as with most reported unrest in Tibetan areas, could not be independently verified.

Nearly 30 Tibetans have set themselves on fire over the past year to protest the suppression of their religion and culture and to call for the return the Dalai Lama, who fled the Himalayan region in 1959 during a failed uprising against Chinese rule

and is reviled by Beijing.

The Communist government has accused supporters of the Dalai Lama of encouraging the self-immolations.

U.S. broadcaster Radio Free Asia said in a statement that Sonam Thargyal, a 44-year-old farmer, fastened cotton padding to his body and doused himself with kerosene before setting himself on fire Saturday in Tongren, a monastery town in western China's Qinghai province. He also drank kerosene, the broadcaster said.

"The Tibetans who were at the scene attempted to put out the flames, but death was very fast because of the kerosene inside and outside the body," RFA quoted Dorjee Wangchuk, a Tibetan exile in Dharamsala, India, with close ties to the Ton-

gren community, as saying.

Thargyal called out for an end to Chinese rule in Tibetan-populated areas, the return of the Dalai Lama and Tibetan language rights, RFA said.

As many as 7,000 Tibetans took part in Thargyal's funeral and cremation ceremony, the broadcaster said.

The London-based rights group Free Tibet posted photos on its website of what it said was Thargyal's charred body covered in ceremonial yellow silk scarves and of hundreds of people marching up a hill to the local cremation site.

Free Tibet said Thargyal, the father of three, had been close friends with a monk who survived a self-immolation attempt on Wednesday, also in Tongren. The monk, Jamyang Palden, is

believed to be alive but critically injured, it said.

Telephone calls to the Tongren county government and

police rang unanswered Sunday. A man who answered the telephone at the government office of Huangnan prefecture, which oversees Tongren, said he had not heard reports of an immolation or a protest.

"All things here are fine," said the man, who, like many Chinese bureaucrats, refused to give his name.

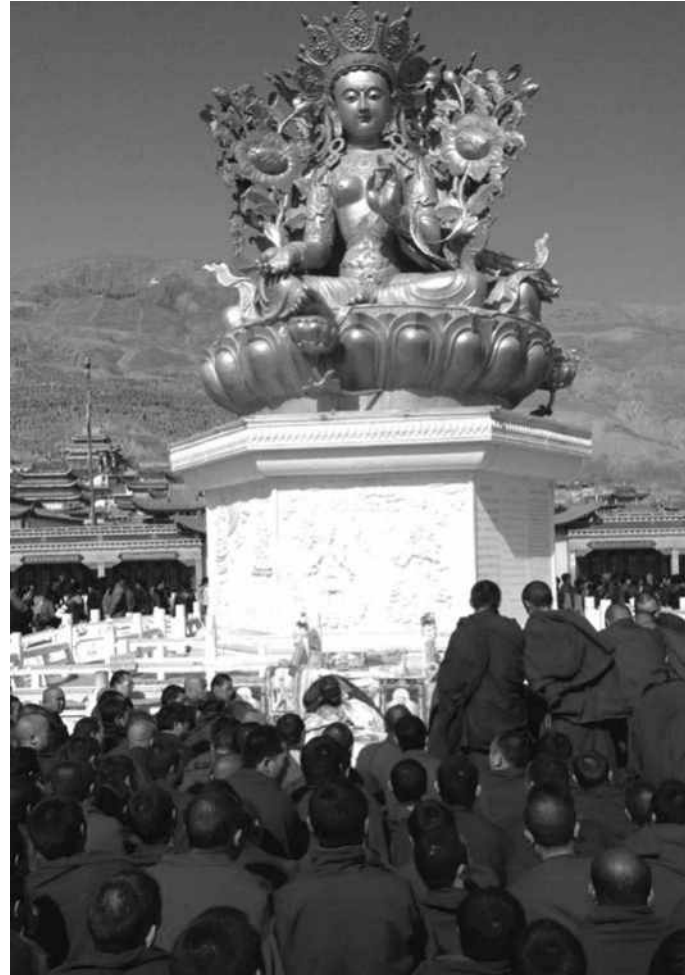
A man who answered the phone at Tongren's Yunlong Hotel, which is close to the funeral site, said he was unaware of any self-immolation or demonstration.

"Nothing happened here," said the man, who also refused to give his name. "The monastery is still open to visitors today, and I did not notice police presence around the monastery."

Free Tibet said there was a small confrontation between the mourners and Chinese security forces, but that it was mediated peacefully and the security forces withdrew.

"It is believed that the paramilitary forces had to withdraw given the vast numbers of Tibetans present," Free Tibet said.

The Dalai Lama has praised the courage of those who engage in self-immolation and has attributed the protests to what he calls China's "cultural genocide" in Tibet.



AP

In this photo taken Saturday, March 17, 2012 and released by Free Tibet.org, Tibetan monks gather to pray in front of the charred body of Sonam Thargyal placed with ceremonial scarves and portraits of the Dalai Lama after the latest self-immolation attempt in Tongren, a monastery town in Qinghai province, western China.

East Timor president concedes defeat in election

DILI, East Timor (AP)—President Jose Ramos Horta—who campaigned tirelessly for East Timor's independence for more than two decades and then went on to help steer the new, young nation—conceded defeat Monday after a poor showing in weekend elections.

The official results from the first round of voting won't be announced until Tuesday. But with more than 70 percent of the ballots counted, the Nobel laureate had nowhere near the support needed to advance to an April 21 run-off. The two leading candidates are Francisco "Lu Olo" Guterres, of the traditionally strong leftist Fretilin party, and former military chief Taur Matan Ruak.

"Congratulations to them," Ramos Horta told reporters in an announcement that could mark the end of his political career. "And also to the people who supported me throughout

my mandate."

He promised to hand over power peacefully to the winner on May 19.

Ramos Horta spent more than a quarter of a century in exile, tirelessly campaigning for East Timor's independence from brutal Indonesian rule by lobbying governments around the globe.

He and his fellow countryman Bishop Carlos Belo were rewarded for their efforts in 1996 with a Nobel Peace Prize.

After the new nation was born in 2002, Ramos-Horta served first as foreign minister, then shepherded East Timor through turbulent and often violent times as prime minister. In 2007 he became president.

He was wounded in an assassination attempt, but returned quickly to work.

As he cast his ballot Saturday, Ramos Horta told reporters he would "always be a winner."

"If I'm re-elected, I win, I have a wooden cross that I have to carry for the next five years in the service of these great people. If I'm not re-elected, I win my personal freedom."

East Timor's transition to democracy has been a rocky one.

Its leaders have battled massive poverty, social unrest and bitter disputes between soldiers and police that—just a few years ago—left dozens dead and resulted in widespread looting, arson and gang warfare.

With the future of the tiny nation in doubt, U.N. and Australian troops were deployed to restore order. If the situation on the ground remains calm, they are scheduled to be out by the year's end.

According to preliminary results from the weekend elections, Guterres took in 28 percent of the vote, Ruak 25 percent and Ramos Horta 17 percent.

Orissa state official U.N. Behera said. Police identified the men as Paulo Bosusco, 54, and Claudio Colangelo, 61, but did not give any other details. Bosusco has been living for 12 years in Puri, a coastal town, where he runs an adventure tourism agency.

Philippine firemen battle mall blaze for 2 days

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials say a fire in a shopping mall has raged for two days in a suburb of the Philippine capital and has injured several people, mostly firefighters. Fire marshal Oscar de Asis says security personnel called for help after discovering the fire in a clothes shop at the five-story Ever-Gotesco Grand Central Mall in Caloocan city late Friday. He says more than 100 firefighters with 50 fire trucks managed to put the blaze under control late Saturday. De Asis says the fire reignited in two areas Sunday in the still-smouldering building and firefighters are still battling the blaze more than 40 hours after it began. Firefighters lacked breathing equipment and several trucks malfunctioned, compounding the problem. The blaze erupted at the start of the scorching summer season.

Charges in Afghan shootings expected within a week

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Charges against an American soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians are expected to be filed within a week and if the case goes to court the trial will be held in the United States, said a legal expert with the U.S. military familiar with the investigation.

Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales is suspected of leaving a U.S. base in southern Afghanistan, entering homes and gunning down nine children, four men and three women before dawn on March 11. Bales, a 38-year-old married father of two from Lake Tapps, Washington, is currently being held at a U.S. military prison in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The shootings have further strained ties between the U.S. government and President Hamid Karzai who has accused the U.S. military of not cooperating with a delegation he appointed to investigate the killings in Panjwai district of Kandahar province. The Afghan investigative team also is not convinced that one soldier could have single-handedly left his base, walked to two villages, shot and killed 16 civilians and set fire to some of their bodies.

Syed Mohammad Azeen, a tribal elder from Balandi vil-

lage, said Sunday in Kandahar that he and other villagers believe more than a dozen soldiers were involved. Other villagers said they saw 16 to 20 U.S. troops in the villages. It's unclear whether the soldiers the villagers saw were part of a search party that left the base to look for Bales, who was reported missing.

Allegations that 16 to 20 people were involved in the killings are "completely false," according to a U.S. official familiar with the case, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the investigation.

Karzai seemed to endorse the skepticism about the U.S. account of a single shooter when he met with relatives of the victims in Kabul on Friday in a meeting covered by the news media. He recounted a story from one of the families about women and children being killed in four different rooms of a house, dragged into one room and lit on fire.

"That, one man cannot do," said Karzai.

Many other officials and villagers have said it seemed impossible for a single soldier to carry out the attacks in both villages—one 1 kilometer north of the base and the other 1.5 kilometers south of the base. But the timeline is unclear. Some villag-

ers have said the attacks, which they claim started around 2:30 a.m., occurred at separate times over an hour. Others have said attacks occurred simultaneously in the two villages.

In an attempt to prove there was only one perpetrator involved in the shootings, the U.S. military has shown Afghan officials footage from a surveillance video that shows a soldier walking up to the base, laying down his weapon and raising his arms in surrender.

Karzai said Friday that the video, which was shot by an aerial blimp above the base, was "not convincing" and accused the U.S. of not cooperating with Afghan investigators.

The legal expert, who also spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the case, insisted that there had been good cooperation between U.S. and Afghan investigative teams and that Afghan officials had provided important evidence for the case.

The military denied the Afghan team's request to interview Bales because that would have violated his rights as an accused in the case, the U.S. official said.

The expert also said that U.S. officials were discussing the best way to compensate the relatives of the victims and those wounded.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia police: 5 terror suspects killed on Bali

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Police say they have shot dead five suspected terrorists in raids on Indonesia's resort island of Bali. Police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar said Monday the men were allegedly part of an Islamic militant network wanted for a series of armed robberies in Medan, a city on Sumatra island, in 2010. They were allegedly plotting similar robberies on moneychangers and a jewelry shop on Bali. Amar said the men—aged between 27 and 32—were killed late Sunday in Sanur and Denpasar, areas popular with foreign tourists. Firearms and ammunition were confiscated during the raids.

Maoist rebels abduct 2 Italians in eastern India

BHUBANESHWAR, India (AP)—Maoist rebels have abducted two Italian men in a poor eastern Indian state and demanded that the state government stop all anti-Maoist operations in return for their release, police and the rebels said Sunday. The two men were seized late Saturday while they were on a trek in the popular tourist resort of Daringbadi in Kandamal,

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Death of consul's daughter spurs Venezuela outcry

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The killing of a Chilean diplomat's teenage daughter by police is reigniting concerns among Venezuelans about excessive force by officers and their frequent involvement in violent crimes. Nineteen-year-old Karen Berendique was riding in a vehicle with her older brother and another young man when police at an unmarked checkpoint opened fire early Saturday in the western city of Maracaibo, said her father Fernando Berendique, Chile's honorary consul in the city. He said they disobeyed a police command to stop, fearing the officers might be robbers. Twelve police officers were detained and are under investigation, the Justice Ministry said.

Belarus executes 2 men convicted of subway bombing

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—Two men convicted of carrying out a deadly subway bombing last year in Belarus' capital have been executed, drawing strong condemnation from activists and the European Union. The mother of one of the two 26 year olds said that she had received official notification of the execution of her son, Vladislav Kovalyov. State television reported late Saturday that both Kovalyov and Dmitry Kononov had been put to death, which in Belarus is done with a shot to the back of the head. Human rights activists condemned the hasty executions, saying they deprived society of the opportunity to learn the truth.

Mexican cartel says no violence during papal visit

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Banners purportedly signed by one of Mexico's drug cartels and hung in Guanajuato promise there will be no violence during next weekend's visit to the state by Pope Benedict XVI, an official said Sunday. At least 11 banners signed by The Knights Templar gang were found in five municipalities, including the city of Leon, where the pope begins his trip Friday, an official at the state Attorney General's Office said. The official agreed to discuss the events on condition of anonymity, because he was not authorized to disclose the information. He said the banners were found Saturday hanging from pedestrian bridges and carried messages about "a sort of truce for peace and said they are going to keep the peace during the pope's visit."

Yemen says more than 2,000 killed in uprising

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—More than 2,000 people have been killed in a year of political turmoil that led to the resignation of Yemen's longtime president, the government disclosed Sunday. The figure is much higher than human rights groups estimated.

The government released its first casualty figures on a day when crowds of protesters were marking one year since a particularly bloody day, when dozens were killed.

Yemen's Ministry of Human Rights said the figure of at least 2,000 includes both unarmed protesters and military defectors, as well as more than 120 children. It said 22,000 people were wounded over the past year.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International estimated earlier this year that 200 protesters had been killed in the uprising.

The government of Ali Abdullah Saleh, who stepped down as president last month after more than three decades in power, never released casualty figures.

For nearly a year, armed men in plain clothes loyal to Saleh attacked anti-government pro-



Protestors hold pictures of slain protesters as they march to commemorate the protesters who were killed one year ago in Sanaa, Yemen, Sunday, March 18, 2012.

testers, while security forces did little to stop them.

Yemenis protested across the country on Sunday to mark the killing of more than 50 protesters last year by snipers loyal to the former regime.

Hundreds of thousands of

protesters took to the streets in at least 18 provinces to demand that Saleh be tried for the deaths of protesters killed a year ago on "Friday of Dignity," when snipers fired from rooftops at protesters in Sanaa's Change Square.

As part of an internationally

backed deal, Saleh was granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for handing over powers to his vice president.

Saleh's successor, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, decreed on Sunday that families who lost relatives in the uprising would

be given a monthly stipend.

The newly appointed prime minister, Salem Mohammed Bassindwa, visited Sanaa's Change Square on Sunday and prayed at a cemetery where protesters were buried. He told youth demonstrators that he would fulfill the goals of their movement.

He denounced the "blatant attacks on hundreds of thousands of revolutionaries and people exercising their right to demonstrate peacefully." Bassindwa heads a coalition government comprised of ministers from both Saleh's regime and the opposition.

The internal turmoil has led to a collapse of security in many parts of Yemen.

On Sunday, two gunmen dressed in military uniforms on a motorcycle shot dead an American teacher working at a language institute in the central Yemen city of Taiz, said the region's provincial governor, Hamoud al-Sufi.

Taiz is the second largest city in Yemen and has been a center of anti-government protests.

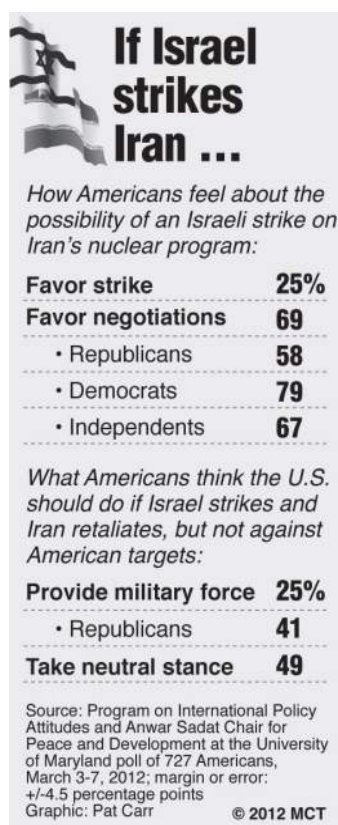
Al-Sufi did not have details on who the killers might be and said an investigation was in progress.

Israelis agree Iran hasn't decided on making atom bomb

JERUSALEM (AP)—Despite saber-rattling from Jerusalem, Israeli officials now agree with the U.S. assessment that Tehran has not yet decided on the actual construction of a nuclear bomb, according to senior Israeli government and defense figures.

Even so, there is great concern in Israel about leaving Iran "on the cusp" of a bomb—explaining why Israel continues to hint at a military attack on Iran's nuclear installations before it moves enough of them underground to protect them from Israel's bombs.

Israel's leaders have been charging in no uncertain terms for years that Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons. Though officials say they accept the more nuanced American view, they warn that it is just a matter of semantics, because an Iran on the verge of being able to build a bomb would still be a danger.



The United States is playing up its assessment that Iran has not made its final decision in a public campaign to persuade Israel to call off any attack plan and allow the increasingly harsh sanctions against Iran time to persuade Tehran to back down.

The concern—which is widely shared in Israel as part of a complex calculation—is of an Iranian retaliation that might spark regional conflict and send oil prices soaring, at a time when the world economy is already struggling and U.S. presidential elections loom.

Also in the equation are concerns about the ability of the Israeli home front to withstand a sustained barrage of Iranian missiles fired in retaliation. Iranian surrogates Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip could also bombard Israel with thousands of rockets, and U.S. troops in the Gulf region could also become targets.

Several senior Israeli officials who spoke in recent days to The Associated Press said Israel has come around to the U.S. view that no final decision to build a bomb has been made by Iran. The officials, who are privy to intelligence and to the discussion about the Iranian program, said this is the prevailing view in the intelligence community, but there are also questions about whether Tehran might be hiding specific bomb making operations.

The concern, they said, is about allowing the Iranian program to reach the point where there is enough enriched weapons grade material that a bomb could quickly be assembled, within a year.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday, "Iran, whose leader foments terrorism and violence around the globe and calls for our destruction ... this regime must never be al-

lowed to have nuclear weapons."

Israel officials have said that with Iran moving its installations underground, Israel's level of bunker-busting capability leaves it with a window of no more than several months to act effectively. The United States, with more powerful bombs, would have a much longer period—but leaders here are loathe to be entirely dependent on U.S. determination on the issue.

The suspicion in Israel is that the Iranians have held off on a decision in order to deny Israel—and other countries—the pretext for an attack, officials said, noting that to a certain extent the matter is semantic and therefore secondary.

All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the subject is deemed too delicate to be discussed on the record, and the government has ordered silence.

Libya ruler speaks out against militia power

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—The head of Libya's interim government said Sunday that militias should not control government buildings or institutions, speaking on a day that clashes between a powerful militia and Tripoli residents killed at least one person.

Mustafa Abdul-Jalil told The Associated Press that the country's many militias must be disarmed and said his government does not want them in control of state facilities.

His plea could not be backed

up by action. The central government in Libya has proved incapable of governing or protecting the country's vital institutions since the capture and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in October.

With the collapse of central authority in Libya, militias and tribes have been acting on their own, exacting revenge on foes and enforcing security in their areas with little coordination or accountability to the Tripoli government.

In Tripoli a powerful militia from Libya's western mountains is in control of the country's main international airport. The former rebels from Zintan, well armed and well trained, are in charge of airport security in the absence of a fully fledged police or military force.

The militias, most of them made up of former rebels, have sparred to keep control of their territory and centers of power.

Zintan militia commander

Mohammed el-Rebay said one of his fighters was killed Sunday in a gunfight with residents of Tripoli's Abu Salim district. The neighborhood was once loyal to Gadhafi.

He said the two sides fired automatic rifles at each other. It was not immediately clear why the clash erupted.

It ended quickly when the district's own militia leaders negotiated a cease-fire with the Zintan gunmen, according to the head of Abu Selim's

military council, Mohammed Abu-Gheniya.

The Zintan militia took control of a school in the neighborhood in August, when Tripoli was overrun by the rebels. The school was turned into a military-style base.

The government estimates that over 200,000 people in Libya are armed. It has attempted a number of schemes, including offering people jobs in exchange for handing over their weapons or offering to buy their weapons, in order to disarm the militias. So far the offers have shown few results.

Focus

Suu Kyi's unthinkable leap from icon to parliament

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—On Yangon's teeming streets, 2012 is the year of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Her once-banished image now appears everywhere, on T-shirts, key-chains and coffee mugs. Pirated copies of "The Lady"—the big screen version of Suu Kyi's life—are the best-selling DVD. And in this devoutly Buddhist country, calendars with Suu Kyi's pictures are now outselling even the Lord Buddha.

In just over a year since her release from house arrest, the 66-year-old opposition leader has made the once unthinkable leap into Myanmar's mainstream, transforming from political prisoner to political campaigner. Now she's trying to take another big step: from icon to elected official.

For many people who put their dreams on hold during decades of military rule, Suu Kyi is seen as a savior and the solution to the country's problems—creating expectations that even she warns can't be met anytime soon.

If the pro-democracy icon wins the April 1 vote, she will become a junior and minority member of parliament, meaning that Suu Kyi's greatest challenge would be her lack of power to make any real change, at least for the foreseeable future. "The road ahead is rough and tough. Democracy is hard to achieve," Suu Kyi told a massive crowd last weekend in the city of Mandalay, where more than 100,000 people packed the streets to see her.

Swarmed by a sea of humanity at campaign outings, Suu Kyi has warned that she is not "a wizard" and can't magically introduce her dreams of democracy, peace and more freedom. She tells the crowds she cannot make any campaign promises.

But her appearance upstages her words. In response the crowd screams: "We love you Mother Suu!"—a name she is affectionately called even by elders because she has the image of having mothered the country through its dark, difficult times.

"Her presence is electrifying. It's not just a Nelson Mandela, a Gandhi, an Obama but it has an element of Marilyn Monroe and a rock star," said Maung Zarni, a Myanmar expert and a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics. "But can her ability to mobilize public support be translated into concrete change? I doubt it."

As the dignified, determined Nobel Peace laureate travels the country campaigning for a seat in parliament, there is a sense of euphoria in Myanmar. The pace of change has been frenetic since a nominally civilian government took office a year ago, releasing hundreds of political prisoners, relaxing media censorship, approving Suu Kyi's candidacy and allowing massive crowds at her campaign rallies. What might normally be a little by-election—to fill one-tenth of the seats in parliament—has taken on enormous significance.

A victory for Suu Kyi would be highly symbolic. It would anoint her with an elected office and a voice in government for the first time in her quarter century as Myanmar's opposition leader.

Even if Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy opposition party win all 48 seats up for grabs they would only have a small minority. The military is guaranteed 25 percent of



Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi delivers her speech during her election campaign trip in Theinni township, Myanmar, Sunday, March. 18, 2012. ^{AP}

seats in the 440-seat lower house and the remainder is dominated by the main pro-military party.

"Parliament is not about 60 million people behind Suu Kyi. It's about who has the largest number of seats in Parliament," Zarni said.

Critics say this would put Suu Kyi right where the government wants her: On a pedestal, as poster child for "the new Myanmar" but politically neutralized.

There remains great skepticism about the sincerity of the new government and Suu Kyi herself has called for cautious optimism, saying recently that "ultimate power still rests with the army ... we cannot say that we have got to a point where there will be no danger of a U-turn."

Of all the disorienting changes, Suu Kyi's public prominence is perhaps the most vivid.

who helped found Suu Kyi's party in 1988 and then spent 19 years as a political prisoner. As he entered the party headquarters, supporters filmed him with cell phones.

"Ten months ago, nobody would have worn a Daw Suu Kyi T-shirt," said Win Tin. Daw is a term of respect. "People are getting bolder, and not only in support of Daw Suu and the National League for Democracy. But against the government."

Vendors on Yangon's busiest streets say no T-shirt, DVD or calendar is selling better these days than those featuring Suu Kyi.

"Even pretty actresses and Buddha can't compete with Suu Kyi this year," said U Myint, a vendor on a street lined with stalls selling calendars.

"The Lady" starring Michelle Yeoh hasn't yet been released in the U.S. but it's a huge hit here, chuckles Cho Gyi, 25, who sells pirated movies near Sule Pagoda where soldiers gunned down Buddhist monks and other anti-junta protesters in 2007. He wears a Suu Kyi pendant around his neck. "To me, she's like a mother. I love her."

For years, the former military junta tried to make the people forget Suu Kyi. They locked her in her lakeside villa and closed her upscale Yangon street to traffic. They padlocked her opposition party's offices and banned her picture from newspapers. People dared not utter her name in public, referring only in hushed tones to "The Lady."

Some have described Suu Kyi as an accidental leader, but many in Myanmar see her as part of a national narrative.

Suu Kyi is the daughter of the country's independence hero, Gen. Aung San, who was assassinated by rivals when she was just 2.

In 1988 at the age of 43, Suu Kyi returned to her homeland after two decades abroad to nurse her dying mother just as an uprising erupted against the military regime. She was thrust into the forefront of the pro-democracy movement.

A gifted orator with steely grace and charisma, she inherited her father's fortitude. Her ability to capture the hearts of the Burmese people was why the junta locked her up after brutally crushing the 1988 protests. She stayed under house arrest for 15 of the next 23 years.

Some observers fear Myanmar's people will be disappointed in the new parliament when it fails to quickly deliver on their expectations. After years of isolation, Myanmar needs a top-to-bottom overhaul of its economy, education, health and banking systems and a plan to unify the country's ethnic

groups after years of guerrilla warfare with the junta.

But that disappointment is unlikely to dim Suu Kyi's star among the Burmese people, analysts say.

"They identify her with democracy and freedom and with resistance, and they will continue to do that whether she manages to get into parliament, become prime minister, or not," said Monique Skidmore, a Myanmar expert at the University of Canberra.

Zarni agrees: "If nothing concrete can be delivered in the next two to five years, the public will fault the regime. She can do no wrong."

Nonetheless, there are fears of what the future holds for Suu Kyi.

On a recent evening in Yangon, a group of former political prisoners gathered near the country's gold-domed Shwedagon Pagoda—without a police officer in sight. They wondered about the prospects of a country that has wrapped its hopes and dreams around one person.

"What we all expect is full democracy and true human rights. This will take a long time," said Aung Tun, 49, who spent a decade in prison for writing a book about student activism.

"During that time, I am concerned that somebody who is impatient with the slow pace of change might take action and assassinate Daw Suu just like Mohandas Gandhi," he said, drawing grim nods from the group.

"At the moment, there is no one who could replace her."



Nobel peace laureate and leader of Myanmar's opposition National League for Democracy

Aung San Suu Kyi

Early years

Born 1945 in Yangon (Rangoon) to independence hero Aung San, assassinated in 1947, and Khin Kyi, former Burmese ambassador to India

Education

• Degrees in philosophy, politics, economics, Oxford Univ., and Oriental/African studies, University of London

Political career

1988 Becomes NLD secretary-general after military junta seizes power

1989 Junta places her under house arrest; NLD wins most parliamentary seats, but military refuses to relinquish power

1991 Wins Nobel peace prize

1997 Husband, who has cancer, is denied entry to Myanmar (Burma) from U.K.; Kyi is denied re-entry if she leaves; she stays

2010 Released from 15 years of detention after 2010 election

2012 Running for parliament in April election

© 2012 MCT
Source: Reuters, MCT Photo Service

Overdrive

BMW 328i raises the bar as it takes a new path

By DAVID UNDERCOFFLER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Imagine if Orson Welles was expected to improve on “Citizen Kane” every six years, or if Kobe Bryant’s contract demanded that every time he put Nike to hardwood, he needed to score 60 points.

Such is the sphere of influence where BMW’s 3 Series operates.

The company says one out of every three BMWs sold since 1975 is one of these compact sport sedans—that’s 12.5 million in all.

Not only has the car been the automaker’s most recognizable ambassador to the car-buying masses for the last 30 years, but with such volume comes corresponding profit.

If brand identity and corporate affluence weren’t big enough burdens to bear for the 3 Series, consider that more than one rival automaker has lost plenty of sleep trying to capture the gestalt-in-a-bottle the car has long represented.

So, you know, no pressure on BMW in bringing this 2012 328i to life.

The biggest change for this new model, other than some interesting design choices, is the 328i’s engine. Reflecting the trend toward smaller and more efficient, this model, starting at \$35,795, is now moved by a 2.0-liter, turbocharged four cylinder.

Although size drops by two cylinders from the previous in-line six cylinder, this direct-injected turbo unit is up on power. Its rating of 240 horsepower and 260 pound-feet of torque is a gain of 10 horsepower and 60 pound-feet of torque over the old engine. BMW says the 328i I tested with an automatic transmission will go from zero to 60



The 2012 328i’s biggest change is its engine. It’s smaller and more efficient than in the previous model, delivering better fuel economy as well as more horsepower and torque.

mph in 5.9 seconds.

That boost in power, and more important the max torque that comes at 1,250 rpm, is a welcome change. The engine doesn’t have the delightful voice of the old in-line six, but it sounds plenty strong when pushed toward its redline, and it moves toward that point with brevity. The only time it’s off-key is when it’s idling and sounds like it’s hiding a diesel motor somewhere.

Complementing the added power from the engine is a sizable jump in fuel economy. Paired with the new eight-speed automatic transmission (a six-speed manual is also available), the 328i is rated at 24 miles per gallon in the city and 36 on the highway. In a week of driving mostly on the highway, I averaged 29 mpg.

That automatic transmission is both new and good. Shifts are well-timed and incredibly smooth, with none of the continuous hunting for the right

gear that can plague lesser gearboxes. Drivers also have the option of changing gears manually with the joystick-like shifter on the center console. Curiously, BMW seems to have those shift directions backward; one must pull back to upshift, push forward to downshift.

I’d tell you to just use the steering wheel mounted paddle shifters, but my car didn’t come with them since they’re optional. Maybe I’ve swallowed too much motor oil over the years, but if BMW bills its products as the Ultimate Driving Machine, anything bearing the company’s logo—station wagons, sport-utility vehicles, tricycles—should come with paddle shifters.

What BMW has included is a standard feature that would make Ed Begley Jr. proud. It’s known as Driving Dynamic Control and is now common throughout BMW’s lineup. The system enables drivers to select three and sometimes four set-

tings that adjust the response of the throttle, steering, stability control and engine. Default is the Comfort mode, with Sport mode dialing things up and Eco Pro mode making things more efficient. Sport Plus is optional on some models.

Furthering the 3 Series’ green credentials is a start/stop function for when the car is at a rest, and a brake energy regeneration system that powers much of the car’s electrical system.

If you fancy yourself a regular Robert Kubica, you’re going to want to avoid Eco Pro and keep the car in Sport mode for spirited driving. Also, you should probably fancy yourself a race car driver other people have actually heard of.

It’s in Sport mode that the oft-imitated harmony of this sports sedan reaches its zenith. The steering, too vague in Comfort mode, tightens up, the engine revs high and long and the throttle is ready before you are. The balance and handling this 3

Series exhibits is excellent; you have to be a talented idiot to find fault with the way it moves.

That much is objective. Subjective is the way this new 3 Series looks. I liked the old 3 Series better.

This new design certainly isn’t ugly. The front flirts with avant-garde, with the depth of the chrome that surrounds the grille exposed where it intersects with a smaller headlamp opening. The sheet metal on top of those headlights has been pulled down low.

This gives the 3 Series a prominent brow and the impression that it’s either concentrating hard on being stylish or it’s about to sneeze. In my week with the car, I did come to appreciate it more, but it still looks a bit flat and two-dimensional.

Meanwhile, the rear of the new 3 Series is handsome and sleek, though it’s a near-clone of the larger 5 Series sedan.

The car as a whole is 3.7 inches longer than its predecessor and rides on a 2-inch longer wheelbase. It’s well put together, as you’d expect BMWs to be. In fact, maybe a little too put together; the doors and trunk lid needed practically a full body-blow to shut properly. Trivial, but annoying.

Inside reveals another questionable design, but fortunately this fumble can be avoided.

In addition to the base 3 Series, three trims are offered, each with specific aesthetic elements inside and outside the car. The Sport line goes for \$2,500 and comes with an excellent sport-tuned suspension, while the Luxury and Modern lines are \$2,100.

The car I tested was a \$50,245 328i Modern that had possibly the oddest optional wood trim I’ve seen inside a vehicle. It was matte and heavily textured

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: \$35,795 (including destination charge)
Price, model tested: \$50,245, 328i Modern
Powertrain: 2.0-liter, DOHC, direct-injected, turbocharged four cylinder; eight-speed automatic transmission with manual and sport modes
Horsepower: 240 at 5,000 rpm
Torque: 260 pound-feet at 1,250 rpm
0-60: 5.9 seconds
Curb weight: 3,461 pounds
Wheelbase: 110.6 inches
Overall length: 182.5 inches
EPA fuel economy: 24 mpg city/36 mpg highway
Final thoughts: BMW resets the standard.

and gave the impression that you had ordered your BMW with decorative ripples of stale chocolate.

The confectioner’s-delight theme continued with the car’s dashboard and leather seats, which were a color BMW calls Dakota Oyster. “Delicious nougat” is closer. The entire experience was like driving inside a Three Musketeers bar.

Otherwise the interior was noteworthy for its solid comfort and lack of drama. The iDrive controller has been revised for greater intuitiveness, and it and a corresponding 6.5-inch screen are standard. Don’t count that as navigation, though, since that feature is part of a \$2,550 technology package. Interior space is up, which enables rear passengers of normal and normal-plus height to sit comfortably. Minor aesthetic foibles aside, the 2012 BMW 328i is a success because its performance and handling remain sublime. It uses as inspiration the best, and—like Kobe or Orson—the best just happens to be itself.

MOTORING Q&A:

Brake should help release shift lever

BY PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I own a 2009 Hyundai Santa Fe with just 9,000 miles on it. When I start the engine, I cannot shift it out of park unless I shut the engine off and start over—then it works. Also, the ignition locks up. The dealer told me to turn both the steering wheel and the ignition key clockwise at the same time. I am 84 and can still do this, but it’s very hard. There should be a simpler way.

ANSWER: Actually, this shouldn’t be an issue at all. Regarding the first problem—not being able to shift out of park—make sure you’re firmly pushing the brake pedal as you attempt to shift. The brake/shift interlock solenoid must release the shift lever from the park position. I found information on a recall for the brake light switch on the 2007 model year Santa Fe. If this switch—activated by the brake pedal—is faulty, it could affect not only the brake/shift interlock but the brake lights, cruise control and electronic stability control sys-

tem. Have your dealer check the adjustment and function of the brake light switch.

The difficulty turning the key is somewhat normal if the steering wheel is in a turned position and leaning on the locking pin. By unloading the steering wheel to release pressure on the pin, the ignition switch operates freely. Try parking with the steering wheel perfectly straight.

■ ■ ■

Q: When I first start my 2008 Buick Lucerne, it runs rough for 10 to 25 seconds, then smooths out. After running it, turning it off and immediately restarting it, it is OK. After letting it sit for a few minutes and starting it, it has the same problem. The dealer ran some tests but could not find the problem. They felt it was a carbon buildup or a bad batch of gas. They ran some carbon cleaner through it, checked the injectors and also put some cleaner in the gas tank. I ran one tank of gas through it, and it still does the same thing.

A: Did the dealer run a fuel pressure leak-down test? If not, that’s the next thing to check. If fuel

pressure falls off quickly after shutting down the engine, check for a leaking fuel pressure regulator or check valve in the fuel pump assembly or—more likely—fuel leaking into the cylinders from weepy fuel injectors. It’s also possible a faulty coolant temperature sensor could cause this symptom by operating the engine too rich when starting at less than full operating temperature. A scan tool can monitor coolant temperature sensor voltage to determine if it is an accurate signal.

■ ■ ■

Q: My 2001 Acura MDX has served me very well over the past 125,000 miles. For the past few months, the power steering makes an annoying groaning noise for the first few minutes after starting it up cold, but then it’s thankfully quiet. The noise lasts longer in cold weather before disappearing. The dealer says it needs a new power steering pump, which was replaced only 18 months ago. The local mechanic says that the noise would continue and not fade away if the problem is the pump. So far the O-ring and hoses have been re-

placed and the filter/screen has been cleaned out. None of these repairs has made any difference in the noise.

A: Hyundai service information indicates that some power steering pump noise for 2 or 3 minutes after startup is normal. I agree. If the power steering operates normally at startup with no binding, hesitation or loss of assist, I would suggest adding a power steering fluid conditioner or SeaFoam Trans-Tune to the power steering fluid. Unless the 18-month-old pump is still under warranty or there’s an issue with power steering function, I’d be inclined to live with this on an 11-year-old vehicle.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn’t always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

Nazi-seized art ordered returned to American man

BERLIN (AP)—A Berlin museum must return thousands of rare posters to an American man, part of his Jewish father's unique collection that had been seized by the Nazis, Germany's top federal appeals court ruled Friday.

The Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe confirmed Peter Sachs, 74, was the rightful owner of the posters collected by his father Hans and ruled he is entitled to receive them back from the German Historical Museum.

The ruling ended seven years of legal battles over a vast collection dating back to the late 19th century that is now believed to be worth between euro4.5 million and euro16 million (\$6 million and \$21 million).

The court said if the museum kept the posters it would be akin to perpetuating the crimes of the Nazis.

"I can't describe what this means to me on a personal level," Peter Sachs, who recently moved to Nevada from Sarasota, Florida, told The Associated Press in an email. "It feels like vindication for my father, a final recognition of the life he lost and never got back."

The case ended up with the Karlsruhe court because of the posters' unique and tumultuous journey through more than 70 years of German history. The posters were collected by Sachs, stolen from him by the Nazis' Gestapo, became the possession of communist East Germany for decades, and then moved to the Berlin museum after Germany's reunification in 1990.

The court acknowledged that Peter Sachs did not file for restitution of the posters by the official deadline for such claims, and that the postwar restitution regulations instituted by the Western Allies could not be specifically applied in his case. But the judges ruled that the spirit of the laws was clearly on Sachs' side.

Not to return the posters "would



In this Jan. 23, 2007 file photo a poster from Hans Sachs' Poster Collection is exhibited at the German Historical Museum in Berlin, Germany.

perpetuate Nazi injustice," the judges wrote. "This cannot be reconciled with the purpose of the Allied restitution provisions, which were to protect the rights of the victims."

Hagen Philipp Wolf, a spokesman for Germany's cultural affairs office which oversees the public German Historical Museum, said the decision would be respected.

"The Federal Court of Justice has decided, we have a clear ruling, the Ger-

man Historical Museum must return the Sachs posters," he said.

A total of 4,259 posters have been identified so far as having belonged to Sachs' father. They were among a collection of 12,500 that his father owned, which include advertisements for exhibitions, cabarets, movies and consumer products, as well as political propaganda—all rare, with only small original print runs. It is not clear what happened to the remainder.

The German Historical Museum rarely had more than a handful of the posters on display at any given time, though it had said the collection was an invaluable resource for researchers.

Sachs' attorney in Germany, Matthias Druba, said his client now hopes that he can find a new home for the collection where they can be displayed to a wider public.

"Hans Sachs wanted to show the poster art to the public, so the objective

now is to find a depository for the posters in museums where they can really be seen and not hidden away," Druba told the AP.

The posters were seized from Hans Sachs' home in 1938 on the orders of Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, who wanted them for a museum of his own.

Born in 1881, Hans Sachs was a dentist who began collecting posters while in high school. By 1905, he was Germany's leading private poster collector and later launched the art publication "Das Plakat (The Poster)."

After the seizure of the posters in the summer, Hans Sachs was arrested during the Nov. 9, 1938, pogrom against the Jews known as Kristallnacht and thrown in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp north of Berlin.

When he was released about two weeks later, the family fled to the United States.

After the war, Hans Sachs assumed the collection had been destroyed and accepted compensation of about 225,000 German marks (then worth about \$50,000) from West Germany in 1961.

He learned five years later, however, that part of the collection had survived the war and been turned over to an East Berlin museum. He wrote the communist authorities about seeing the posters or even bringing an exhibit to the West to no avail. He died in 1974 without ever seeing them again.

The posters became part of the German Historical Museum's collection in 1990 after the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall.

Peter Sachs has said he only learned of the existence of the collection in 2005, and began fighting then for their return.

When he receives the posters back Sachs will repay the compensation that his father received, Druba said. He said it was not yet clear what the amount would be in current terms.

Iron Lady faced test of mettle in West End farce

CAMBRIDGE, England (AP)—She went to war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands and faced down the powerful National Union of Mineworkers. But one of the hardest things Margaret Thatcher ever did, according to newly released personal papers, was attend a West End farce with herself as the central character.

The excruciating evening spent watching "Anyone for Denis" is one of several behind-the-scenes episodes described in the files that reveal a softer side of the British leader nicknamed "The Iron Lady."

Papers from 1981, released Saturday by the Margaret Thatcher archive at Cambridge University, include arrangements for the then-prime minister and her husband Denis to attend a charity performance of the play, which subjected them to mockery.

Thatcher even agreed to hold a reception for the cast and several dozen others at her official residence at 10 Downing St.—though she did not go along with all the organizers' suggestions. On a list of questions—Would she be paying for her tickets? Would she agree to wear the same outfit as the play's star, Angela Thorne?—Thatcher scrawled: "No no no no no."

The files do not record Thatcher's verdict on the play, but historian Chris Collins of the Margaret Thatcher Foundation said the prime minister "hated every minute of it."

"She was genuinely nice to the cast, proba-

bly enjoyed the party," he said. "(But) sitting there, watching someone portray her on the stage, Denis a complete buffoon—no, thank you very much."

After the ordeal, the play's star wrote expressing sympathy for the prime minister's plight.

"It must have been two hours of agony for you with the press watching your every move," Thorne wrote.

Thatcher's reply was gracious: "I think we both got through rather well!"

The play, later filmed for television, clearly made a strong impression, on Thatcher, who is now 86.

The newly released documents include voluminous files about plans for the 1981 Downing St. Christmas card, which show that Thatcher tried to reject the suggested photo of her and Denis sitting in front of a fireplace.

"Alas this won't do at all," she wrote. "DT and I were both dressed in black. And after 'Anyone for Denis' this will be seen as a caricature!"

It was a perceptive comment—though the picture was eventually used on the card.

Among the recipients—who ranged from friends, employees and political colleagues to heads of state including Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein—was leftist London government leader Ken Livingstone.

Livingstone, one of Thatcher's fiercest political



British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher listens to the opening debates during the Conservative Party's conference at Blackpool in this file photo dated October 1983.

foes, showed the card to a newspaper.

"I thought it was a joke at first," he told the Daily Express. "In the picture they look so much like John Wells and Angela Thorne in 'Anyone for Denis?'"

Known for her steely political resolve—once famously proclaiming "the lady's not for turning"—Thatcher emerges in the papers as diligent and often generous.

As prime minister between 1979 and 1990, she received 2,000 to 3,000 letters a week, and according to Collins answered many of them personally.

The files include the prime minister's reply to a young girl who had written, upset, because her parents were divorcing.

Thatcher—faced with riots, a struggling economy and scheming rivals within her Conservative Party—took the time to reply at length, expressing sympathy and regret that she could not solve the problem.

"My own children had a happy time," wrote Thatcher, the mother of twins, "and I should like you to have the same."

In a handwritten postscript, she suggested the girl show the letter to her parents—and even offered to intervene herself.

"Perhaps you would let me know if you ever come to London and I could arrange for someone to take you to the Parliament and I could speak to you myself," Thatcher wrote.

The girl's name is not included in the released files, and it is not known whether the meeting ever took place.

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21 Jump Street

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
Comedy, Action • Rated R

Synopsis

The television series that shot Johnny Depp to stardom makes the leap to the big screen in this reboot starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Schmidt (Hill) and Jenko (Tatum) have the kind of faces that could let them pass for teenagers. Eager to prove themselves as effective policemen, the pair join the Jump Street program and go undercover to investigate a high-school drug ring. Now, the only thing more daunting than the prospect of taking on violent adolescent dope slingers is the possibility of experiencing the torture of their teenage years all over again. Ice Cube, Brie Larson, and Rob Riggle co-star.



The Vow

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum
Drama • Rated PG 13



John Carter

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins
Fantasy, Science fiction • Rated PG 13



Silent House

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Izabel Olsen, Adam Trese
Thriller • Rated R



Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
Children's/Family • Rated PG



Project X

Friday			9:35	
Saturday			9:35	
Sunday		7:20		
Monday thru Thursday		7:20		

Thomas Mann, Jonathan Brown
Comedy • Rated R



Act of Valor

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez
Adventure, Action • Rated R



Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday		4:20	7:20	
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Sunday	1:20	4:20		
Monday thru Thursday		4:20		

The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine
Adventure • Rated PG

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Super busy SXSW wraps up with poignant moment

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Stars of all stripes and celebrity hit town to close out South By Southwest, but it was a marching band that stole the show Saturday.

Members of the Austin High band watched their star turn in the premiere of filmmaker Emmett Malloy's "Big Easy Express," then joined documentary subjects Mumford & Sons, Edward Sharpe and The Magnetic Zeros and Old Crow Medicine Show in an outdoor concert at the University of Texas as the music conference fell into an exhausted heap on its final night.

Across town, Timbaland held a listening party at Perez Hilton's annual to-do. Norah Jones played her new album for an appreciative group of fans. Matthew McConaughey joined The Cult during a free concert. Punk rock icon Bob Mould played "Copper Blue" in its entirety, bringing out the graybeards. And Peter Buck and Mike Mills of R.E.M. joined The Posies and Blitzen Trapper in one final tribute to Big Star frontman Alex Chilton, who passed away two years ago as he was due to participate in SXSW.

Rumors of celebrity appearances swirled up and down Sixth Street, but few of them materialized as St. Patrick's Day revelers clogged downtown Austin in a frenzy of partying that didn't end till 2 a.m. last call.

Superstars such as Bruce Springsteen, Jay-Z, Eminem and others made this the busiest SXSW ever, overflowing with celebrity, secret performances and high-dollar endorsements that made sure the festival looked nothing like the humble event that started 25 years ago with just 200 bands spread over 12 clubs. With so much going on and plenty of places to get hammered on green beer, even the usually most exclusive events



Santigold performs at the Fader Fort presented by Converse day party during the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas on Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

were easy to get into.

It took a bumpin' tuba line and a bunch of enthusiastic high school kids to shake off the glitzy veneer that had many longtime festival participants grumbling about the good old days and inject a little innocent joy back into the conference.

With the UT Tower lit up in the background, the band took the stage, then laid down a rolling groove before joining Mumford & Sons on "The Cave," recreating a powerful moment from "Big Easy Express" in front of thousands of fans on the lawn at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library.

"That's real music, ladies and gentlemen," Marcus Mumford told the crowd after the song. "That's real music from real people."

Afterwards fans surrounded marching band members on the street and chanted: "One more song! One more song!"

The love of making music and the community brought by close collaboration were the

dominant themes of "Big Easy Express," which made its world premiere earlier in the day at the Paramount Theatre, then was replayed for the crowd before the night's concert.

Malloy follows the three bands as they made a train trip from California to New Orleans via Austin. They covered 2,500 miles in a week and a half, playing music almost every step of the way and enlisting Austin High to join the fun in one of the film's most delightful moments.

"Very few people have seen this film," said Malloy, whose previous credits include The White Stripes 2009 documentary "Under Great White Northern Lights." "But the ones who have, everyone says they're very jealous that they weren't on (the train). They want to quit their day job and go be a freak.

And I think the fact that this film evokes that kind of like, 'I want to get in touch with my wild side' is great. It's more emotional than I would've ever thought, and the fact that I was able to

work with everything those guys were doing those days and create a little bit of an emotional journey, that put this film in a very special place."

The film is full of poignant moments as the bands bond in close quarters, jamming on each other's songs, writing new ones and taking old standards and making them new.

"We got on the train and you guys were just setting the tone, really playing music nonstop," said Alex Ebert, nodding to Mumford and OCMS member Gill Landry during a red carpet interview before the premiere. "It was a really powerful experience and one we jumped into probably willingly and happily. But I mean in that sense that's what we took away the most—the preparedness, willingness and effort to constantly play music."

Over at Hilton's party, producer Timbaland took the stage after a long absence from the spotlight.

"I know you been missing me for a while," he said.

Norah Jones plays entire new album at SXSW

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Norah Jones unveiled something new at South By Southwest—again.

Ten years after she shook Austin and the music world with "Come Away With Me," the 25 million-selling debut she released just weeks before the 2002 conference and festival, she returned to play her entire new album "Little Broken Hearts" at La Zona Rosa on Saturday night.

"It's a little scary sharing these songs with new people, but we're all friends, right?" she asked a crowd of a few hundred.

This was just the second time she's played in public the stylish yet deeply emotional material on the 12-song collaboration with Danger Mouse, out May 1.

In an interview Friday, Jones described "Little Broken Hearts" as a concept album of sorts that examines a difficult



In this Oct. 2, 2010 file photo, Norah Jones performs during the 25th anniversary Farm Aid concert in Milwaukee.

breakup. She said she and Danger Mouse, the producer whose given name is Brian Burton, wrote most of the songs as a team, working out lyrics and the instrumentation together.

She thought Austin—in her home state of Texas—was the perfect place to share "Little Broken Hearts."

"It seemed to make sense to come back to my new record," Jones said. "I'm just going to play the new record. I'm not even going to play any old songs because it's South By Southwest. It doesn't seem wrong to do it that way. It's fun. This is a festival. It's for new bands but it's also just for new

stuff, so it feels right to do the new record."

Vaguely psychedelic and introspective, she showed fans a different side. The album is something of a departure for Jones and another step in her evolution away from the jazzy sound of the Grammy-winning "Come Away With Me."

"Is it weird hearing music you've never heard before?" she asked.

Dressed in a black and white-striped dress and beige cowboy boots—"New album, new band, new dress," she joked—Jones appeared a little nervous as she started the hour-long set. But the crowd was into the songs and she quickly took command, playfully batting away a flirtatious offer for a date from a fan.

"I'm taken," Jones said with a smile. "No, I'm busy. I've got like 20 bands to see. I think we should start the next song."

'21 Jump Street' leaps to No. 1 with \$35M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Audiences headed back to school for the TV update "21 Jump Street," which opened as the No. 1 weekend movie with \$35 million.

Sony's action comedy starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum as cops going undercover as high school students took down the animated hit "Dr. Seuss' the Lorax," which had been the top flick the previous two weekends.

Studio estimates Sunday put Universal's "The Lorax" in second-place with \$22.8 million, raising its domestic total to \$158.4 million.

At No. 3, Disney's costly sci-fi dud "John Carter" dropped sharply in its second weekend. The Edgar Rice Burroughs adaptation took in \$13.5 million, down 55 percent from its anemic opening weekend and lifting its domestic total to a measly \$53.2 million. "John Carter" reportedly cost \$250 million to make.

While tanking in the United States, "John Carter" has done decent business overseas. It took in \$40.7 million this weekend to push its international haul to \$126.1 million and its worldwide total to \$179.3 million.

In narrow release, Will Ferrell's Spanish-language B-movie spoof "Casa de mi Padre" opened solidly at No. 9 with \$2.2 million. The Lionsgate release played in just 382 theaters, compared to 3,121 for "21 Jump Street."

Based on the 1980s TV show that made Johnny Depp a star, "21 Jump Street" casts Hill and Tatum as rookie cops posing as teens to root out crooks peddling a psychedelic new drug at a Los Angeles school.

Rather than doing a straight update of the TV show, Sony turned "21 Jump Street" on its head for the big-screen, retooling it as a comedy that helped pack in the under-25 crowd, which made up half of the audience.

"I just think you had to make it relevant, and action comedy was the way to go. And they did



In this film image released by Columbia Pictures, from left, Ice Cube, Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum are shown in a scene from "21 Jump Street."

1. "21 Jump Street," \$35 million (\$7 million international).
2. "Dr. Seuss' the Lorax," \$22.8 million (\$11.6 million international).
3. "John Carter," \$13.5 million (\$40.7 million international).
4. "Project X," \$4 million (\$5.6 million international).
5. "A Thousand Words," \$3.8 million.
6. "Act of Valor," \$3.7 million.
7. "Safe House," \$2.8 million (\$3.5 million international).
8. "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island," \$2.5 million (\$5 million international).
9. "Casa de mi Padre," \$2.2 million.
10. "This Means War," \$2.1 million (\$9.2 million international).

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. "John Carter," \$40.7 million.
2. "Dr. Seuss' the Lorax," \$11.6 million.
3. "This Mean War," \$9.2 million.
4. "The Devil Inside," \$7.4 million.
5. "21 Jump Street," \$7 million.
6. "Intouchables," \$5.8 million.
7. "Project X," \$5.6 million.
8. "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island," \$5 million.
9. "Contraband," \$4.1 million.
10. "Turkisch fur Anfanger," \$4 million.

make it very relevant to a young audience," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "The guys, Jonah and Channing, were just killer together. They had incredible chemistry and certainly were the attraction for younger crowds."

Hollywood's box-office hot streak finally cooled off a bit, with overall business down for the first weekend this year. Domestic revenues totaled \$108 million, off 6 percent from the

same weekend last year, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

That's likely to be just a hiccup for Hollywood, though, with business expected to soar again next weekend as the adaptation of the best-seller "The Hunger Games" hits theaters.

Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian said "The Hunger Games" could have an opening weekend well above \$100 million and might sur-

pass the \$116.1 million debut of 2010's "Alice in Wonderland," which holds the record for best domestic premiere in March.

Dergarabedian attended "The Hunger Games" premiere and said that "fans were lined up, camped out for days. I hadn't seen that since the 'Twilight' movie. But unlike 'Twilight,' which was dominated by the female audience, there's huge interest from males in this movie."

With a huge summer season ahead that includes the superhero tales "The Avengers," "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "The Dark Knight Rises," Hollywood has a strong shot at setting a revenue record this year.

So far, domestic revenues are at \$2.16 billion, 16 percent ahead of last year's.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Jerry Lewis celebrates 86th birthday in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Jerry Lewis did not turn 86 quietly.

The comedian and filmmaker flew in to New York from Las Vegas for an hours-long celebration Friday night.

It started with an onstage interview at Manhattan's 92nd Street Y, then continued in midtown at the Friars Club, where hundreds gathered to sing happy birthday to Lewis, who added his trademark goofy voice. Wearing a dark blazer and bright red shirt, Lewis sat at a corner table in the club's Frank Sinatra room, with Richard Belzer and Robert Klein among those at his table. His meal included a slice of birthday cake, a three-tiered production decorated with movie stills, a microphone and miniatures of the performer.

Lewis is known for such movies as "The Nutty Professor," and for hosting the Muscular Dystrophy Association's telethon.

Four years of college is not the only road to success

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Do you think every American child should get a four-year college degree? I keep meeting students who have a real talent and passion for other jobs—military, cosmetology or skilled trades, such as Internet technology and carpentry—but whose parents are furious at the suggestion they might not graduate from a four-year college.

It's a little-known fact that there is actually a shortage of skilled tradespeople these days. IT jobs pay well and are constantly in demand. As my grandmother used to say, "Everyone needs a plumber when the toilet's clogged." It distresses me to see so many parents disregard their kids' instincts about their skills and desired careers in favor of the "more schooling is always better" philosophy.

Graduating from college has been part of what we envision as the "American dream," but not every kid is going to be fulfilled after getting one of those degrees when the jobs that go with it don't materialize. If a child wants to go into the military or become a skilled tradesperson, parents should at least consider what they're suggesting. Because someone chooses a career path that isn't what a parent hoped for doesn't mean he or she can't be successful.

ANN ARBOR READER

DEAR READER: I have had this discussion with many people over the years and I agree. While it is crucial that young people finish high school, not every child is intellectually inclined. Many have talents better-suited to the trades. A person with skill and drive can earn a good living as a plumber, electrician, tailor or in the food industry. Some brilliant and successful people started but didn't finish college. Many of them are in the arts and technology fields. Economic realities being what they are today, parents should be flexible and sensitive to their children's aspirations on this subject.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: For 20 years, my secret (to some, but not to others) involvement with a married man has kept me on an emotional roller coaster. We were both married at the time it began, and it was always understood that we would not leave our partners. However, since then my marriage has broken down.

Conventional wisdom—expressed by friends, family and your column repeatedly—has it that I should end this hopeless affair, get out and meet other men. I have made numerous attempts, but have accepted that he's the only man I feel comfortable being intimate with.

I don't want him to leave his marriage, from which he draws much respectability and desperately needed security. However, his obvious delight in our afternoon trysts does suggest that his so-called picture-perfect marriage doesn't meet his emotional and sexual needs. And that's what irks me!

This couple presents a happy profile in our community. The urge to burst his hypocritical bubble is growing within me with every passing year. Would it be morally reprehensible for me to let his wife know that she has been made a fool of for the last 20 years?

SEETHING IN CANADA

DEAR SEETHING: Yes. Resist the urge. What makes you think his wife doesn't know? Once more than two people know this kind of "secret," word has a way of circulating. I see nothing positive to be gained by trying to hurt the wife. If your lover has to make a choice between the two of you, the person who will get the boot will be you. You knew this from the beginning. And you may find that it is not the wife who has been a fool for 20 years, but you.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Lil Wayne told to cut grass of La. mansion

KENNER, La. (AP)—Lil Wayne has been told to cut his grass.

The Times-Picayune (<http://bit.ly/yxfta>) reports the rapper was cited for high grass and weeds at his 10,000-square-foot mansion in a gated subdivision in Kenner, La., a suburb of New Orleans.

The Code Enforcement Department issued the ticket to Dwayne Carter, the New Orleans-born singer's given name, sometime between Feb. 26 and March 2, according to a list released by the city.

The home is on sale for \$1.7 million. Listed as a "celebrity" mansion, the house has five bedrooms, five bathrooms, two half baths and a "beautiful, spa-

cious open floor plan."

Among the house's amenities are a four-car garage, a theater and movie room, an entertain-

ment bar, a pool house. The master suite has a fireplace with his and her baths and a steam room sauna and Jacuzzi.



In this March 15, 2012 image, Lil Wayne performs during the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas.

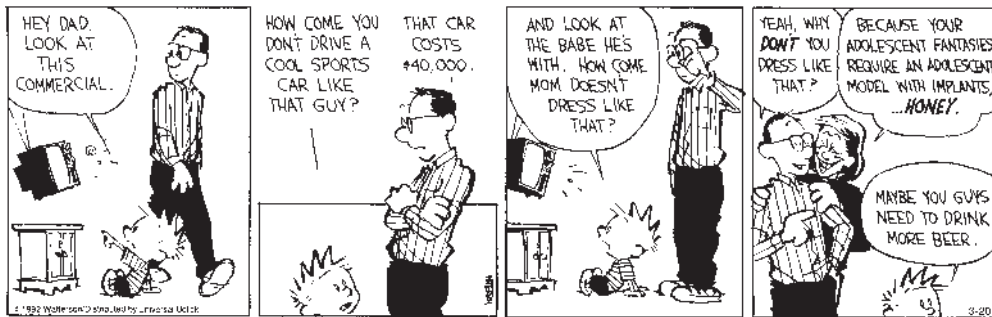
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

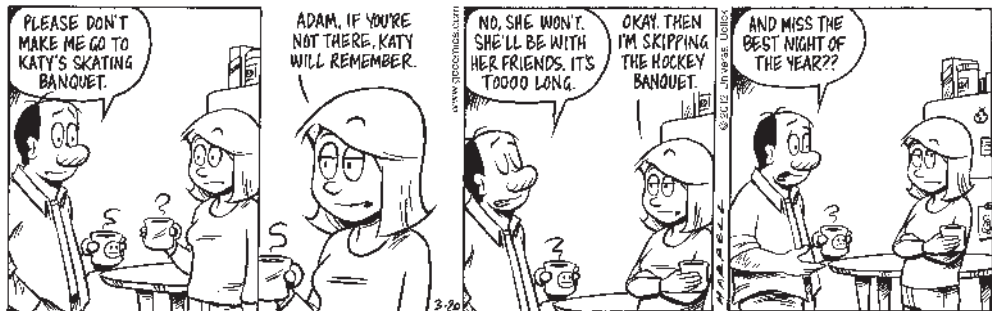


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tire-changing aid

5 Spring mo.

8 Got bigger

12 Shaving cream additive

13 Fish eggs

14 Greek vowel

15 Fund-raising events

17 Toe woe

18 Shell game item

19 Make money (from)

21 Ill-tempered one

24 "Groovy!"

25 Go sight-seeing

26 Try to touch your toes, maybe

30 Blackbird

31 Logic

32 Raw rock

DOWN

33 Sodium — (food preservative)

35 Tarzan's transport

36 Not all mine

37 "America's Next Top —"

38 Man's hat style

41 It's between jay and el

42 Egg

43 C-note

48 Toll road

49 CSA leader

50 Fence opening

51 Coaster

52 — out a living

53 Formerly, formerly

20 Took the train

21 Impale

22 Sharpen

23 Destroy

24 Small change

26 Not too bad

27 Null partner

28 Sea eagle

29 Spool

31 Tart to the taste

34 Sped

35 Trip

37 Army rank (Abbr.)

38 Dandies

39 Satanic

40 Carolina campus

41 Dangling site

44 "A mouse!"

45 Scratch the surface

46 "Impossible"

47 Butterfly catcher

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	P	P	C	R	A	M	S	P	A	R
S	E	E	H	E	L	O	T	A	R	E
P	A	N	T	O	M	I	M	E	N	I
O	R	O	M	A	Y	D	A	Y		
M	U	P	P	E	T	A	L	O	E	
I	R	A	S	S	F	A	S	U	R	G
C	A	N	S	S	I	H	R	I	L	L
A	L	O	H	A	M	O	B	N	U	S
R	E	D	D	B	U	N	G	E	E	
S	L	A	L	O	M	B	R	A		
H	A	M	P	A	N	E	G	Y	R	I
O	V	A	T	H	E	R	E	E	V	A
P	A	S	S	A	T	Y	R	D	E	B

Yesterday's answer 3-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chester Bennington, 36; Holly Hunter, 54; Spike Lee, 55; William Hurt, 62.

Happy Birthday: You can be aggressive, as long as you are honest, understanding and kind. Utilize your ability to think and act fast to your advantage, but don't let it come between you and someone who has always supported your pursuits. Your intuition will guide you if you listen to that small voice within. Your numbers are 5, 16, 24, 28, 31, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Think matters through to the end before you make a move. Emotional confusion can cost you if you jump to conclusions or make an impulsive decision. Focus on what you have to offer and fine-tune your skills to fit your choices. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share your thoughts and offer your assistance to people you want to impress. Don't be afraid to show your emotions and to do things a little differently, if it will help you master a skill or utilize your talents to the fullest. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep things out in the open. If you are too secretive, someone will accuse you of withholding information. You need to voice your opinion and be willing to compromise as well as make alternative suggestions. Avoid emotional arguments. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your house in order. Taking time to adjust your surroundings to better suit your needs will ease some of the stress you are feeling due to uncertainty. Don't let changes disrupt your life. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take on a new project or sign up for a class that will broaden your knowledge. Traveling and fraternizing with people who have something to offer will help you get a better handle on what you want to do next personally or professionally. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be anxious to get things done and to resolve any differences. Love and romance are highlighted, and doing your best to accommodate someone special will lead to a better relationship. A self-improvement project will pay off. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Question anyone in your life who is unpredictable or inconsistent. You need to gravitate toward individuals who offer stability and equality. Strive to make your home a place of peace and comfort. Size down if it will ease your stress. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You've got all the right moves. Use a little force to bring about changes that will enhance your personal relationships. Making unusual changes to your home or the way you live will help you become more productive personally and professionally. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Honesty is the best policy. Trying to skirt issues will put a dent in your reputation. Keep the peace by being upfront about the way you feel and how you see your future unfolding. Personal change will help you avoid criticism. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be honest about your goals and what you really want to do. Self-deception for the sake of someone else will not turn out well. Backtracking will make you appear confused. Do what's best for you. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Go back to basics and keep things simple. Revisit your dreams, hopes and wishes, and reconsider the possibilities. An honest assessment will help you bridge the gap between satisfaction and disappointment. Strive for betterment. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Bring an old hobby or activity back to life. Follow your heart and reconnect with people you miss. Welcome change and diversity. Let love be your focus and partnerships your goal. Strive for equality in relationships and you will be successful. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You have spunk. You are proactive and determined to make a difference.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	6						5	
			5		9			
5		1		6		7		8
8	1						4	6
3		6		1		8		9
9	5						1	2
7		4		8		6		5
			7		4			
	9						8	

Difficulty Level ★★

3/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	1	8	2	6	7	5	3
7	8	5	1	3	4	6	2	9
3	2	6	7	9	5	4	8	1
8	6	4	9	5	3	1	7	2
1	5	9	2	7	8	3	4	6
2	7	3	4	6	1	8	9	5
5	4	8	3	1	9	2	6	7
6	1	7	5	8	2	9	3	4
9	3	2	6	4	7	5	1	8

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHURCH CHOIRS

Solution: 6 letters

T	D	K	G	C	I	S	U	M	E	L	O	D	Y	I
H	O	U	C	A	P	S	W	O	O	D	W	I	N	D
E	R	N	O	A	L	T	A	R	L	O	R	S	O	A
A	O	O	E	L	B	M	E	S	N	E	T	S	M	P
T	T	V	O	I	C	E	S	A	H	R	P	L	R	P
E	C	H	T	P	T	B	R	E	U	T	E	A	A	R
R	U	A	E	N	A	P	A	M	E	E	M	R	H	E
S	D	L	U	N	O	R	E	S	D	N	U	O	S	C
E	N	L	D	S	N	E	C	S	O	L	H	G	I	
R	O	S	O	A	T	S	E	T	I	R	O	C	N	A
V	C	L	L	S	P	L	A	S	T	V	O	I	T	
I	O	O	E	T	U	N	E	M	I	A	C	N	Y	I
C	V	B	S	N	O	S	S	E	L	A	M	A	A	O
E	O	S	P	I	R	I	T	U	A	L	R	I	R	N
R	A	T	I	U	G	M	R	O	F	R	E	P	P	P

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3/20

Altar, Appreciation, Back, Band, Bass, Caps, Chapel, Choral, Conductor, Duet, Ensemble, Group, Guitar, Halls, Harmony, Instruments, Lessons, Loud, Love, Mass, Master, Melody, Music, Perform, Piano, Practice, Praise, Praying, Rehearsal, Robes, Service, Solo, Soprano, Sounds, Spiritual, Tenor, Theater, Tone, Tune, Voices, Volume, Volunteer, Woodwind

Yesterday's Answer: Clover

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 20: The Puzzles "Word" Challenge. The 1000 words and 1000 puzzles are available for purchase at www.wonderword.com. \$25.00. (US only) \$30.00. (Canada) \$35.00. (UK) \$40.00. (Australia) \$45.00. (New Zealand) \$50.00. (South Africa) \$55.00. (India) \$60.00. (Japan) \$65.00. (Korea) \$70.00. (Singapore) \$75.00. (Taiwan) \$80.00. (Thailand) \$85.00. (Vietnam) \$90.00. (Malaysia) \$95.00. (Indonesia) \$100.00. (Philippines) \$105.00. (Singapore) \$110.00. (Hong Kong) \$115.00. (Macau) \$120.00. (Macao) \$125.00. (Macao) \$130.00. (Macao) \$135.00. (Macao) \$140.00. (Macao) \$145.00. (Macao) \$150.00. (Macao) \$155.00. (Macao) \$160.00. (Macao) \$165.00. (Macao) \$170.00. (Macao) \$175.00. (Macao) \$180.00. (Macao) \$185.00. (Macao) \$190.00. (Macao) \$195.00. (Macao) \$200.00. (Macao) \$205.00. (Macao) \$210.00. (Macao) \$215.00. (Macao) \$220.00. (Macao) \$225.00. (Macao) \$230.00. (Macao) \$235.00. (Macao) \$240.00. (Macao) \$245.00. 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North Carolina State upsets Georgetown



COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Lorenzo Brown hit three free throws in the final 10.6 seconds and North Carolina State conjured up its glorious tradition by upsetting Georgetown.

The Wolfpack (24-12) had to survive a furious comeback by the Hoyas (24-9) and only were assured of the win when Jason Clark's hurried 3-point attempt from the right wing was off the mark at the buzzer.

C.J. Williams, Scott Wood and C.J. Leslie each had 14 points, and Brown added 12 for the Wolfpack, who earned their first trip to the round of 16 since 2005.

Hollis Thompson led the Hoyas with 23 points.

Michigan State 65, St. Louis 61

In Ohio, Draymond Green scored 16 points with 13 rebounds and set up Keith Appling's crucial 3-pointer with 1:34 left, giving top-seeded Michigan State a 65-61 win over Saint Louis on Sunday and sending the Spartans to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament.

Michigan State will play No.

4 seed Louisville in the West Regional semifinals Thursday in Phoenix.

Appling added 19 points for the Spartans (29-7), who had to scrap their way past the ninth-seeded Billikens (26-8). Saint Louis controlled the tempo but never got a complete handle on Green, Michigan State's superb senior. He added six assists and even helped mop up sweat off the floor in the final minute.

Kwamain Mitchell scored 13 and Brian Conklin 11 for Saint Louis, back in the

Florida 84, Norfolk State 50

In Nebraska, Kenny Boynton scored 20 points and Florida routed Norfolk State to reach the regional semifinals of the NCAA tournament for the second straight year.

Norfolk State shook up the West Regional when it upset No. 2 seed Missouri 86-84 on Friday and was trying to become the first 15 seed to reach the round of 16.

Florida put a quick end to that idea, making five 3-pointers during a 25-0 run that made it 29-6 midway through the first half.

The Gators (25-10) made it to the regional semifinals for the sixth time in 12 NCAA tournament appearances under coach Billy Donovan. They will play No. 3 seed Marquette on Thursday in Phoenix after their second straight run-away win.

Florida was 4 for 23 from beyond the arc in its tournament opener, but still managed to beat Virginia 71-45. It rediscovered its shooting touch early against Norfolk State (26-10), making five of its first eight 3-point attempts and 10 of 28 for the game.

North Carolina 87, Creighton 73

In North Carolina, John Henson proved he's healthy enough to help North Carolina's latest push for the Final Four. It remains to be seen if Kendall Marshall will be able to help the Tar Heels.

Henson had 13 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks in his return from a wrist injury, but Marshall broke a bone in his right wrist during the second half of North Carolina's third-round victory over Creighton.

Coach Roy Williams confirmed the injury after the game, and said he would talk to Marshall



North Carolina State's C.J. Leslie, right, collides with Georgetown's Henry Sims during the second half of an NCAA college basketball tournament third-round game, Sunday, March 18, 2012, in Columbus, Ohio. NC State defeated Georgetown, 66-63.

and his parents about his status Sunday night. The point guard still finished with 18 points and 11 assists.

North Carolina got off to a fast start and built a 15-point lead in the first half, then kept control and pushed the margin to 19 after the break on the way to its second straight double-digit victory in the Midwest Regional. The top-seeded Tar Heels (31-5) reached the round of 16 for a record 25th time.

Doug McDermott scored 20 points for the Bluejays (29-6), who shot 41 percent and couldn't keep up with the hot-shooting Tar Heels.

Ohio 62, South Florida 56

In Tennessee, Walter Offutt scored 21 points, D.J. Cooper had 19 and Ohio beat South Florida to advance to the regional semifinals.

The Bobcats (29-7) will play No. 1 seed North Carolina in their second trip to the round of 16.

Ohio trailed by two when Offutt swished a 3-pointer, launching a 10-0 run for the Bobcats. A pair of free throws by Cooper made it 54-46 with 3:28 left.

The Bobcats had a 59-53 lead when Toarlyn Fitzpatrick connected for South Florida's first 3-pointer of the half. But Cooper went 3 for 4 from the line while the Bulls missed three shots in the final 36 seconds.

Victor Rudd Jr. and Anthony Collins both scored 13 points for the Bulls (22-14).

Kansas 63, Purdue 60

In Nebraska, Elijah Johnson scored 18 points, including the go-ahead basket off a steal in the final minute, and Kansas rallied to beat Robbie Hummel and Purdue after trailing almost the entire way.

Thomas Robinson had 11 points and 13 rebounds for the Jayhawks (29-6), who were down by 10 in the second half but still managed to advance to St. Louis. They'll play No. 11 seed North Carolina State on Friday in the Midwest Regional semifinals.

Purdue was clinging to a 60-59 lead and had the ball when Lewis Jackson, with the shot clock winding down, lost control at the top of the key. Johnson picked it up and went the other way for the go-ahead layup with 23.3 seconds left.

Hummel missed a 3-pointer at the other end and Tyshawn Taylor scored a transition dunk for Kansas with 2.5 seconds left. After a timeout, Purdue sharpshooter Ryne Smith unloaded a long 3-point try that hit the backboard and the rim before falling away.

Hummel finished with 26 points and nine rebounds to lead the Boilermakers (22-13).

Xavier 70, Lehigh 58

In North Carolina, senior center Kenny Frease scored a career-high 25 points to go with 12 rebounds and Xavier knocked off upset-minded Lehigh to reach the round of 16 for the fourth time in five years.

Lehigh, which stunned No. 2 seed Duke on Friday, was looking to become the first 15 seed to make it to the regional semifinals. But the 7-foot Frease stood in the way.

He dominated in the paint, hitting 11 of 13 shots, and Tu Holloway was his normal productive self with 21 points as Xavier (22-12) advanced to play No. 3 seed Baylor on Friday in the South Regional at Atlanta.

The Musketeers held C.J. McCollum, the nation's fifth-leading scorer, to 14 points on 5-of-22 shooting and overcame a 15-point first-half deficit. Mackey McKnight had 20 points for Lehigh (27-7), which tied a Patriot League record for wins in a season.

Cincinnati 62, Florida State 56

In Tennessee, Dion Dixon stole the ball and dunked to put Cincinnati ahead for good with 1:32 left and the Bearcats edged Florida State to reach their first regional semifinal in the NCAA tournament since 2001.

Cincinnati (26-10) will play No. 2 seed Ohio State in Boston on Thursday night in the East Regional, giving the state of Ohio four teams out of the last 16 still standing.

Sean Kilpatrick scored 18 points and Dixon finished with 15 for Cincinnati. Yancy Gates had 10, and JaQuon Parker grabbed 11 rebounds.

Florida State (25-10) had its six-game winning streak snapped. The Seminoles won their first Atlantic Coast Conference tournament title this season but fell short of the NCAA regional semifinal they reached a year ago.

Luke Loucks led Florida State with 14 points.

Donald wins and returns to No. 1



PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Luke Donald returned to No. 1 in the

world the same way he got there the first time.

Donald rallied from a three-shot deficit Sunday at the Transitions with a 5-under 66, then won a four-man playoff on the first extra hole with a shot out of the rough to 6 feet and a birdie putt that curled in the left side of the cup.

He gave a big uppercut with his right fist to celebrate the end of a wild day at Innisbrook - and a devastating finish for Ernie Els.

Els was among eight players who were tied for the lead at some point in the final round, and he had a one-shot lead going into the closing stretch known as the "Snake Pit" at the Copperhead course.

The Big Easy missed a 4-foot birdie putt on the 16th, and then badly missed a 4-foot par putt on the 18th hole that caused him to miss the playoff by one shot. He likely has to win in the next two weeks to avoid missing the Masters for the first time since 1993.

Donald ended Rory McIlroy's two-week stay atop the world ranking.

He first reached No. 1 in the world by winning a playoff over Lee Westwood at Wentworth last May. This required more work as Donald had to beat Jim Furyk, Robert Garrigus and Bae Sang-Moon in sudden death.

Furyk, who closed with a 69, had an awkward lie just short of the bunker and left himself a 40-foot putt. Bae (68) missed his birdie attempt from 18 feet. Garrigus, who birdied the last two holes in regulation for a 64, pounded his tee shot and hit wedge into 7 feet, but he pulled his birdie putt.

That set the stage for Donald, who had hit a superb shot from the rough that barely cleared the bunker.

"I was a lot more nervous the first time," Donald said of getting to No. 1. "That certainly wasn't my focus. I was just focused on trying to win the tournament, and it worked out."

They all finished at 13-under 271.

Scott Piercy, who finished his 62 before the leaders teed off, joined Els (67), Ken Duke (68) and Jeff Overton (66) in a tie for fifth. Overton and Piercy had birdie chances on the 18th, neither knowing it would be enough for a playoff. Duke missed a 5-foot par putt on the 17th hole to fall out of a six-way share of the lead.

As sweet as it was for Donald, it was painful for Els.

The Big Easy needed to win to secure his spot at Augusta National, and he was poised to do just that with a flawless round until the end. But he missed a 4-foot birdie putt on the 16th that would have given him a two-shot lead, then fell back into a six-way tie with a tee shot that sailed well right of the par-3 17th green and left him no chance of getting it close to save par.

He pulled his approach into the light rough left of the flag on the 18th, chipped below the hole and seemed a lock to be in the playoff. But his par putt never even touched the hole.

Els needs to be in the top 50 in the world after next week, and his four-way tie for fifth only moved him to the lower 60s. Because the field isn't strong at Bay Hill, he might have to win to have any chance. Els also is playing the Houston Open.

Els barely restrained himself in a brief TV interview after the round. There really wasn't much to say later.

"I'm pretty hot now, and it's difficult to talk with a straight head here," Els said. "If I take stock, I think I'm playing good golf, and I've got head into the next couple of weeks trying to get a win."

49ers look like serious player in Manning pursuit



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Jim Harbaugh coaching Peyton Manning. In the Bay Area, they're beginning to think about the possibility and believe it truly might happen.

A former NFL quarterback, Harbaugh worked wonders with Alex Smith in a matter of months for the NFC West champions, and now all signs point to the 49ers being a serious player in the Manning sweepstakes. Smith, who had a three-year offer on the table to return, traveled to Miami on Sunday to meet with the Dolphins.

"It's crazy," said 49ers running back Frank Gore, who has long been a big supporter of Smith. "I'm going to sit back and let them do their job. I'm sitting back and waiting for it to happen."

Everybody is eagerly anticipating decision day, likely this week.

If San Francisco doesn't sign Manning, the 49ers will have some serious relationship-building to do with Smith even after he developed a close relationship with Harbaugh. The Niners might even need to bump him up from the \$24 million he has reportedly been offered.

And there could be similar fallout in Tennessee and Denver if those teams don't land Manning, who turns 36 on Saturday. The four-time NFL MVP sat out the 2011 season and is trying to come back after he was released by Indianapolis following a string of neck surgeries.

For Smith, his visit to South Florida also could be a move by the 2005 No. 1 overall draft pick to protect himself with a possible backup plan. He and Manning are both represented by agent Tom Condon of CAA Sports.

"This is the NFL. I guess nothing surprises me anymore," Smith told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel upon arriving at the airport Sunday. "I never thought a year ago (Peyton) Manning



In this March 11, 2012 file photo, NFL quarterback Peyton Manning leaves the Arizona Cardinals training facility after a five-hour meeting with coaches and front office staff in Tempe, Ariz. The San Francisco 49ers are among three finalists for Manning, along with the Denver Broncos and Tennessee Titans.

would be a free agent either. I'm never surprised by anything."

Harbaugh watched Manning work out last Tuesday at Duke, and now the former Colts star has held sessions for all three of the franchises believed to be the finalists to sign the biggest free agent of 2012. Only the 49ers are yet to publicly acknowledge their interest.

Manning worked out for Tennessee on Saturday in Knoxville, one day after he showed his skills to Hall of Famer John Elway and the Broncos at Duke.

While Harbaugh and offensive coordinator Greg Roman saw Manning last week and San Francisco emerged

as a surprise contender to sign the 2007 Super Bowl-winning quarterback, it seems 49ers CEO Jed York and general manager Trent Baalke certainly would want to make their pitch to Manning in person, too.

Pulling off this one would be the second major splash by the 49ers' brass in as many offseasons.

In January 2011, York and Baalke wooed Harbaugh away from nearby Stanford on a \$25 million, five-year deal. And what a job Harbaugh did: San Francisco went 13-3 and ended an eight-year stretch without a playoff berth or winning record, losing 20-17

in overtime of the NFC title game to the eventual Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

If Smith leaves and Manning doesn't sign or were to get hurt, the 49ers would be left with unproven second-year pro Colin Kaepernick, but this is a team that isn't afraid to take chances when the reward could be huge. Just look at a two-day span for San Francisco last week. The 49ers signed Randy Moss on Monday and a day later cornerback Perrish Cox, who was acquitted earlier this month on sexual assault charges in Colorado.

Harbaugh has a knack for coaching

anybody into a winner with his "Who's got it better than us? Nobody!" chants and other unorthodox motivational tactics - some of which he learned from his coaching father, Jack, and big brother and Baltimore Ravens coach John.

The NFL coach of the year last season, Harbaugh has to believe he'll have no problem coaching a veteran quarterback like Manning. The former Colt is among the greatest ever to play with 54,828 yards passing, 4,682 completions and 399 touchdown passes.

"He's a Hall of Famer, first ballot, that's all I got to say," Gore said of Manning. "He's one of the best ever to play the game. I'm going to sit back and let them do what they think is best."

If winning is more of a priority for Manning than a big payday, the 49ers have put things in place over the past week. They signed Moss to a one-year deal, then brought back Pro Bowl cornerback Carlos Rogers on a \$31.3 million, four-year contract to give San Francisco 11 returning starters on Vic Fangio's talented defense. The 49ers then agreed to terms on a two-year contract with former Giants wideout Mario Manningham late Saturday.

"I know coach Harbaugh and Trent Baalke feel good about what they're doing," Gore said. "They know what they're doing."

Perhaps all of that is enough to attract Manning, despite the thought he would prefer to stay in the AFC and not have to regularly face off with his younger brother, Eli.

This year marks Manning's 15th in the NFL - the same number of seasons Harbaugh spent in the league with the Bears, Colts, Ravens, Chargers and Panthers. A first-round draft pick taken 26th overall by Chicago in 1987, Harbaugh completed 2,305 of 3,918 passes for 26,288 career yards and 129 touchdowns in the NFL. He also ran for 18 TDs.

Elway, of course, also has quite the pedigree.

Wade powers Heat to 91-81 win over Magic



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade scored 14 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter, Chris Bosh added 23 points and the Miami Heat beat the Orlando Magic 91-81 on Sunday night to extend their home winning streak to 13 games.

LeBron James finished with 14 points, 12 rebounds, seven assists and five steals for the Heat. His pass with 3:46 left made it past two Magic defenders and set up Bosh for perhaps the clincher, a three-point play that stretched Miami's lead to 84-73.

And with the way Miami was playing defense, that was enough: Orlando scored 12 points in a span of nearly 16 minutes in the second half.

Dwight Howard finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds for Orlando. Quentin Richardson was 5 for 7 on 3-pointers for a 15-point night for the Magic, who split four games with Miami this season, both teams going 2-0 at home.

Jazz 103, Lakers 99

In Los Angeles, Paul Millsap scored 24 points, Enes Kanter added 17 points and eight rebounds, and Utah handed Los Angeles just its second home loss since Christmas.

Rookie Alec Burks scored 13 of his 17

points in the fourth quarter for the Jazz, who snapped the Lakers' five-game winning streak while winning three straight games of their own for the first time in two months. Utah has posted back-to-back wins without leading scorer Al Jefferson, who attended his grandmother's funeral in Mississippi this weekend.

NBA scoring leader Kobe Bryant had 15 points on 3-for-20 shooting for the Lakers, punctuating his horrific night by missing a tying 3-point attempt in the waning seconds.

Andrew Bynum had 33 points and 11 rebounds while making 12 of his 14 shots for Los Angeles, which had won 19 of its last 20 games at Staples Center since losing its season opener to Chicago.

Clippers 87, Pistons 83, OT

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul scored nine of his 19 points in overtime and added a season-high 15 assists, carrying Los Angeles over Detroit.

Blake Griffin had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and he tipped in Paul's missed layup with 19 seconds left in regulation before Paul swiped the ball from Tayshaun Prince to send it to overtime.

After hitting two long jumpers early in overtime, Paul capped a dominant performance by grabbing control of a jump-ball tip and getting it to Randy Foye for a

layup with 7 seconds left. He added two free throws with 3.4 seconds left as Los Angeles finished 3-3 in a stretch of six home games in eight days.

Thunder 111, Trail Blazers 95

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 28 points, Kevin Durant had 26 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and Oklahoma City began work on restoring its home-court dominance, beating Portland.

James Harden added 14 points for Oklahoma City, which moved to 10-1 this season in the game immediately following a loss. The Thunder had lost at home to the San Antonio Spurs on Friday.

Oklahoma City had lost three of its last four games at Chesapeake Energy Arena after opening the season 17-1 at home. That lone loss was to the Blazers, but that Portland squad bore little resemblance to the lineup the Blazers fielded on Sunday.

Suns 99, Rockets 86

In Phoenix, Michael Redd scored a season-high 25 points off the bench and Phoenix beat Houston for its fourth straight win.

Channing Frye scored 19 and Marcin Gortat had 15 points and 10 rebounds

for the Suns, who moved within a half-game of the Rockets for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Phoenix, which moved over .500 for the first time this season at 23-22, is 11-3 over its past 14 games and 8-1 at home since the All-Star break.

Luis Scola scored 18 points and Goran Dragic added 16 for the short-handed Rockets, who have lost eight of 11.

Hawks 103, Cavaliers 87

In Cleveland, Joe Johnson scored 28 points and short-handed Atlanta beat Cleveland for the sixth straight time.

Atlanta had only 10 players available, but took an early lead that it never relinquished.

The Hawks built a 19-point lead midway through the third quarter and answered Cleveland's only run late in the period to win going away. Jeff Teague added 18 points for the Hawks and Kirk Hinrich scored 14.

Alonzo Gee matched a career high with 20 points to lead Cleveland, which has lost three straight. Rookie Kyrie Irving scored 19 points and had 10 assists for his first career double-double.

Kings 115, Timberwolves 99

In Sacramento, Marcus Thornton

scored 24 points and Sacramento used a strong second half to beat slumping Minnesota.

The Kings were tied at halftime, but gained the lead for good by outscoring Minnesota 33-25 in the third quarter. Sacramento quickly built on its eight-point lead after three quarters and the Timberwolves trailed by double digits for much of the fourth.

Isaiah Thomas scored 18 points, John Salmons added 15 and Jason Thompson had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings. Chuck Hayes had a season-high 12 points and eight rebounds.

Grizzlies 97, Wizards 92

In Memphis, Rudy Gay scored 27 points, including five in the final 23.9 seconds, to lift Memphis over Washington.

Mike Conley added 17 points and six assists for Memphis, which snapped a two-game losing streak. Marc Gasol had 15 points and Zach Randolph added 13. Randolph, Gay and Gasol had nine rebounds apiece, helping Memphis to a 53-40 advantage on the boards.

John Wall led the Wizards with 25 points and six assists. Jordan Crawford finished with 22 points, and Kevin Seraphin had 12 points and 12 rebounds as Washington lost for the fifth time in the last six.

Ali'i Kamote, DJ Fish lead in SEDA league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

SEDA Ali'i Kamote is the current frontrunner in the Masters division of the 2012 Saipan Electronic Dart Association League after last week's games.

In other divisions, SOS Bar & Grill's DJ Fish and VFW Post 3457's Good Guys II lead Thursday's B-Fanihi and B-Flame Tree fields, while Jonny's Bar & Grill's Sparks holds a three-game advantage in the C division after last Wednesday's pairings.

Ali'i Kamote snuck past Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Sabalu Boy (28-40), 9-8, on the road to improve its record to 42-26.

Bammy's Aces (40-28) routed



SOS Bar & Grill's DJ Fish (42W-18L), pictured in this file photo, kept the lead in SEDA's B Fanihi division after defeating Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's DRP 2 (29-31), 9-6, on the road last Thursday.

VFW's D'Companeros (21-47), 14-3, in a road match to move into a tie for second place with the SOS All Stars (40-28), who stumbled to a 7-10 loss at home to VFW's Maharot Crew (36-32).

SOS's Mixed Blood Rookies (32-36) also recorded an upset

against sister team Destroyers (33-35), 9-8.

Notable performances last week included a pair of High In 160's by Mix-Blood's Joshua Wodson and Aces' Jayson John and a High Out 117 by Sabalu Boyz's Ben Aguon.

In the Thursday B, DJ Fish defeated Bammy's DRP 2 (29-31), 9-6, on the road to stretch its lead against B-Fanihi field to seven games and improve its record to 42-18.

DRP 2's sister-squad Lights Out (35-25) absorbed a 7-8 up-

RENATA

From Page 28

first loop of the 32K bike leg before Bucher wrestled the upper hand at the turn and reached the bike-to-run transition area about five minutes ahead. Bucher completed the two-loop bike race in 1:42:43 against Slack's 1:50:18. Wasle (3:32:00) almost did not finish the bike leg due to multiple flat tires.

With Wasle, a tough runner, behind in the race, Bucher

had only Slack to worry about in the final leg—the 10K run. Slack managed to post the fastest time (women's) in the run leg at 45:17, but it was not enough to overhaul Bucher's lead, who timed in just about two minutes (47:07) behind the U.K. pro.

With her back-to-back wins this month, Bucher is heavily favored in XTERRA Saipan, which she admitted is her favorite stop.

"I had to wait a full year to come back to my favorite is-

land. I love Saipan," Bucher wrote in her Facebook account yesterday.

Bucher and other pros who raced in the Philippines are expected to arrive here today.

Meanwhile, in the men's division, there was also a tight race between Australia's Ben Allen and Switzerland's Oliver Marceau. Allen clocked in at 2:30:05 against Marceau's 2:32:22, to get his second straight win this month, following a victory in XTERRA Guam. The Australian pro

(2:29:42) had less than four-minute winning margin against Marceau (2:33:22) in Guam.

Allen led by only about a minute at the end of the swim leg with his 18:20 against Marceau's 19:22 and created more distance in the bike leg, posting 1:32:19. Marceau had 1:34:17 in the bike and was faster than Allen (39:36) in the run leg with his 38:43, but settled for another runner-up finish, leading to Saipan XTERRA, which the Swiss dominated from 2004 to 2007.

UPSET

From Page 28

Loyda and Angie's familiarity with each other's game helped them upset the Saipan Badminton Club players, who teamed up for the first time. Choi has been playing in the A division and dominating her foes for the past years, while Boranah just moved up to the highest class this season and her nerves got the best of her, as she struggled in the all-important match.

Choi and Boranah won the top seeding in the playoffs after completing the elimination round with a 7-1 record. They then advanced to the finals after downing the Berks' Blazers Lanie Bartolome and Lucelle Lampera, 21-19, 21-17.

The Itos were seeded second in the playoffs after earning a 5-2 record. Loyda and Angie absorbed their first loss in the tournament at the hands of Choi and Boranah and also bowed to Shirley's Badminton Club's Toshiko Obata and Annette Ta. Then in the semis, the newly crowned champions were paired against Golden Racquet's Cheng Saturno and Anna Alvarez and won, 21-18, 18-21, 21-17, to get a chance to avenge their loss against Choi and Boranah.

In the battle for third place, Lampera and Bartolome prevailed over Saturno and Alvarez, 21-18, 15-21, 21-19.

In the men's A doubles, Taga players were also successful as Andreau Galvez and Rodwealth Espana swept Shirley's Sam

Jones and Glenn Bultjens in the finals, 21-16, 21-11.

Espana and Galvez ruled the men's A doubles with an unbeaten record. They topped Mario Diola and Dick Guintu in the semis, 21-18, 21-19, to march into the finals against Jones and Bultjens, who won over Ferdie Arago and Gerry Balarao in the other semis duel, 18-21, 21-17, 21-19. Arago and Balarao went on to complete the Top 3 in the men's A division after slipping past Guintu and Diola in the consolation game, 21-16, 18-21, 21-19.

In the men's B division, Jexler Caranto and Oh Im Bog were also undefeated en route to ruling the six-team field. They had a 5-0 record in the elimination, beat Lito Mendoza and Narlou Achas in the

semis, and then thwarted Puy Macario and Chris Hilario in the finals, 21-5, 19-21, 21-11. Jerry Tan and Espana, who lost to Macario and Hilario in the semis, settled for third after a 21-16, 21-13 win over Mendoza and Achas.

In the women's B division, Marylyn Montano and Cheng Saturno won the battle of unbeaten pairs, prevailing against Lee So Young and Heo In Sook, 21-14, 21-15. Both finalists finished the elimination round with a 4-0 record. Then in the semis, Saturno and Montano won over Obata and Elma Labuson, while Lee and Heo downed Alma Ortega and Boranah, who ended up in third place after a 16-21, 21-9, 21-15 victory over Labuson and Obata.

QQ

From Page 28

Crystal Pure 59, Andhok's Grille 51

In the second game, Rex Yabut drilled eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to power Crystal Pure to an eight-point win over Andhok's Grille.

Crystal Pure (2-4) was ahead by only a hair at the end of the third, 40-39, when Yabut and Gilbert Miranda canned important baskets that helped their team keep its distance against Andhok's (2-5). Miranda scored Crystal Pure's first four points, while Yabut made the next three and later nailed free throws that seal the deal for the team.

Andhok's played catch up in

the entire game, as it was held to 10 points in each of the first two quarters.

First Game

QQ Car Rental 80 – Mangali 29, Paraiso 19, Pagarao 14, Cruz 8, Mateo 5, Sison 3.

Mobil 69 – Ruluked 32, Fernando 17, Moises 6, Bicara 4, Reyes 4, Galzote 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-20, 37-33, 61-50, 80-69.

Second Game

Crystal Pure 59 – Yabut 20, Bernardo 13, Lerio 10, Miranda 9, Danipog 4, Cadag 1.

Andhok's Grille 51 – Capalad 11, Castro 11, Wesley 10, Camacho 9, Umali 6, Garcia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-10, 29-20, 40-39, 59-51.

NMC

From Page 28

In addition to first, second, and third place prizes for the different flights, the tournament will also award hole-in-one prizes. The lucky golfer who makes a

hole-in-one shot at the designated sites will win significant prizes donated by the tournament's sponsors.

The NMC Foundation is also asking companies or individuals who can contribute Education Tax Credit, monetary, or in-kind donations to spon-

sor the tournament. A special sponsors' reception will be held on April 18. Those interested in sponsoring the event or who are interested in registering to play can contact the Northern Marianas College at 234-5498 extension 1502.

Registration forms are avail-

able at Marianas Country Club, Saipan Country Club, Dan Dan Golf Range, Kingfisher Golf Links, Coral Ocean Point, and All Star Sporting Goods. Payments for the registration fee can be made at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Triple J Motors, and the NMC Cashier. **(PR)**

set to seventh-ranked Jonny's Adventurers (25-35), but remain in second place, while Es'y Kitchen's Kitchen Shooters and Naked Fish's IT&E Na'Gupu are tied for third place with similar cards of 32-28.

In addition, VFW's Dutty Gunz (27-33) defeated Poseidon's One Shot (18-42), 1-4.

Also in the Thursday league, Good Guys II improved its slate to 35-25 after 10-5 road victory over Jonny's Retsa Sakude II (30-30).

The Water Front endured a 7-8 upset at Bammy's to Lila-puching (30-30), but is still tied for second place with Joe's Steakhouse's Skoregazzums, which outlasted SOS's What You Got, 8-7, at home.

Meanwhile, Jonny's Rehab (30-30) bested 19th Hole Bar's Dart Freaks (28-32), 9-6, on the road.

Notables include a pair of

High In 152's by Lilapuching's Alex Castro and Rehab's Mike Jones and a High Out 120 by Retsa Sakudi's Manny Ada.

In the C division, the Sparks were stunned, 7-8, on the road by VFW's Party Rock, but maintained a three-game lead with their 39-21 card.

Party Rock now shares second honors with Island Apparel's Oh MG!, which diced up Bammy's DRP (26-34), 11-4, on the road; Party Rock and Island Apparel hold similar 36-24 records.

In other results, Oceanside Bar & Grill's Shooters V1 (34-26) defeated 19th Hole's Hole In One (13-47), 9-6, at home, while Hafa Mas! (25-31) beat the Oceanside's Shooters V2 (24-36), 8-7, in a home game.

Notables included a High In 112 by Shooters V2's Richard Presinede and a High Out 107 by Shooters V1's Moody Samora.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	25	20	.556	—
Boston	23	21	.523	1 1/2
New York	21	24	.467	4
Toronto	15	30	.333	10
New Jersey	15	31	.326	10 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	33	11	.750	—
Orlando	29	17	.630	5
Atlanta	26	19	.578	7 1/2
Washington	10	34	.227	23
Charlotte	7	36	.163	25 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	37	10	.787	—
Indiana	25	18	.581	10
Milwaukee	20	24	.455	15 1/2
Cleveland	16	26	.381	18 1/2
Detroit	16	29	.356	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	29	14	.674	—
Memphis	25	18	.581	4
Dallas	26	20	.565	4 1/2
Houston	24	22	.522	6 1/2
New Orleans	11	34	.244	19

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	34	11	.756	—
Denver	25	20	.556	9
Utah	23	22	.511	11
Minnesota	22	24	.478	12 1/2
Portland	21	24	.467	13

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	28	17	.622	—
L.A. Clippers	26	18	.591	1 1/2
Phoenix	23	22	.511	5
Golden State	18	24	.429	8 1/2
Sacramento	16	29	.356	12

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 103, Cleveland 87

L.A. Clippers 87, Detroit 83, OT

Sacramento 115, Minnesota 99

Memphis 97, Washington 92

Miami 91, Orlando 81

Phoenix 99, Houston 86

Utah 103, L.A. Lakers 99

Oklahoma City 111, Portland 95

TRANSITIONS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

FINAL ROUND

x-Luke Donald (500), \$990,000	67-68-70-66-271
Sang-Moon Bae (208), \$410,667	69-66-68-68-271
Jim Furyk (208), \$410,667	66-70-66-69-271
Robert Garrigus (208), \$410,667	67-72-68-64-271
Ken Duke (96), \$193,188	68-67-69-68-272
Ernie Els (96), \$193,188	70-67-68-67-272
Jeff Overton (96), \$193,188	68-69-69-66-272
Scott Piercy (96), \$193,188	69-68-73-62-272
Bo Van Pelt (80), \$159,500	70-68-69-66-273
Jason Dufner (68), \$132,000	66-66-71-71-274
Matt Kuchar (68), \$132,000	73-67-69-65-274
Webb Simpson (68), \$132,000	68-69-69-68-274
Kevin Streelman (68), \$132,000	68-69-69-68-274
Chris DiMarco (57), \$101,750	70-67-69-69-275
Charley Hoffman (57), \$101,750	69-71-67-68-275
Bud Cauley (54), \$85,250	68-71-69-68-276
Sergio Garcia (54), \$85,250	68-68-70-70-276
Geoff Ogilvy (54), \$85,250	72-68-70-66-276
Michael Thompson (54), \$85,250	68-70-71-67-276
Jason Day (47), \$53,839	69-72-67-69-277
Padraig Harrington (47), \$53,839	61-73-72-71-277
Jerry Kelly (47), \$53,839	69-68-71-69-277
John Mallinger (47), \$53,839	72-66-66-73-277
Bryce Molder (47), \$53,839	67-71-73-66-277
Louis Oosthuizen (47), \$53,839	73-68-68-68-277
Chez Reavie (47), \$53,839	68-70-67-72-277
David Toms (47), \$53,839	67-72-67-71-277
Retief Goosen (47), \$53,839	69-68-65-75-277
Kris Blanks (38), \$32,756	73-68-70-67-278
Greg Chalmers (38), \$32,756	70-70-68-70-278
Justin Leonard (38), \$32,756	69-70-72-67-278
Kenny Perry (38), \$32,756	66-70-72-70-278
Justin Rose (38), \$32,756	67-70-75-66-278
Will Claxton (38), \$32,756	64-74-68-72-278
William McGirt (38), \$32,756	66-68-73-71-278
Brandt Snedeker (38), \$32,756	69-72-67-70-278
Gary Woodland (38), \$32,756	68-71-68-71-278
Brian Davis (31), \$23,100	69-71-69-70-279
Bill Lunde (31), \$23,100	68-73-68-70-279
Shaun Micheel (31), \$23,100	71-69-66-73-279
Kevin Na (31), \$23,100	71-68-69-71-279
Kyle Reifers (31), \$23,100	70-68-70-71-279
John Senden (31), \$23,100	66-70-70-73-279
Jason Bohn (27), \$18,700	66-71-70-73-280
Jamie Lovemark (27), \$18,700	70-67-69-74-280
Robert Allenby (23), \$15,246	69-72-69-71-281
K.J. Choi (23), \$15,246	71-70-73-67-281
Zach Johnson (23), \$15,246	71-68-72-70-281
George McNeill (23), \$15,246	67-68-72-74-281
Cameron Tringale (23), \$15,246	66-71-70-74-281
Arjun Atwal (19), \$13,118	71-70-67-74-282
John Daly (19), \$13,118	69-72-70-71-282
Jimmy Walker (19), \$13,118	70-69-71-72-282
Nick Watney (19), \$13,118	69-72-70-71-282
Brian Gay (13), \$12,265	70-72-71-73-283
Peter Hanson, \$12,265	70-70-75-68-283
Sunghoon Kang (13), \$12,265	68-73-71-71-283
Joe Ogilvie (13), \$12,265	67-73-71-72-283
Greg Owen (13), \$12,265	70-70-69-74-283
Pat Perez (13), \$12,265	71-70-70-72-283
Andres Romero (13), \$12,265	70-68-75-70-283
Mark Wilson (13), \$12,265	71-70-70-72-283
James Driscoll (7), \$11,660	70-70-73-71-284
D.A. Points (7), \$11,660	69-72-73-70-284
Vijay Singh (7), \$11,660	71-70-72-71-284
Chris Couch (4), \$11,275	67-68-73-77-285
Tom Gillis (4), \$11,275	72-69-71-73-285
J.J. Henry (4), \$11,275	70-71-73-71-285
Marc Leishman (4), \$11,275	71-70-71-73-285
Kevin Chappell (1), \$10,890	69-69-75-73-286
Stewart Cink (1), \$10,890	67-74-72-73-286
Troy Matteson (1), \$10,890	70-69-71-76-286
Jonathan Byrd (1), \$10,670	72-69-76-71-288
Rory Sabbatini (1), \$10,560	68-72-72-77-289
Michael Bradley (1), \$10,450	71-70-74-75-290
Jesper Parnevik (1), \$10,340	69-72-75-75-291
Charlie Wi (1), \$10,230	70-71-73
78-292	
x-won on first playoff hole	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COPSSA Boys and Girls JV Basketball League

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The GCA Eagles flash the No. 1 sign after beating Mt. Carmel in the boys junior varsity division finals of the 2011-2012 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium early this month.



Whispering Palms players and coach Mark Epley pose with their championship trophy.



Whispering Palms' Negahr Rastgui, left, and Grace Christian Academy's Karlo De Leon win the MVP awards.



Calvary Christian Academy players receive the sportsmanship award.



Grace Christian Academy and Whispering Palms players battle for the ball.



Grace Christian Academy's Billy Hinson goes up for a shot against Mt. Carmel School.




Grace Christian Academy's Josiah Trinidad challenges the defense of a Mt. Carmel School player.




Grace Christian Academy's Kobe Mendoza goes for a fastbreak layup.



The GCA Lady Eagles pose with their runner-up trophy.

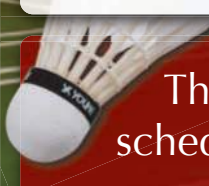


Activity Schedule for March 20, 2012





8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices


6:30 PM to 9:30 PM: Evening practices



There are no scheduled games.







There are no scheduled games.



**North
Carolina
State upsets
Georgetown**

24

Saipan Tribune Sports

**49ers look like
serious player
in Manning
pursuit**

25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012

Renata tops XTERRA Philippines

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Swiss pro Renata Bucher will head to this weekend's XTERRA Saipan Championship with two straight victories.

Bucher, who reigned supreme in XTERRA Saipan from 2005 to 2010 before losing to U.S. pro Shonny Vandalingham last year, topped XTERRA Philippines last Sunday with a narrow three-minute lead over United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack to move a win away from earning a three-feat this month. Bucher completed the race held in Liloan, Cebu, in the southern part of the Philippines, in 2:53:33, while Slack timed in at 2:56:39.

Bucher and Slack were also the Top 2 finishers in the 2012 XTERRA Guam Championship held last March 10, but the former finished the first leg of XTERRA Asia Tour's Triple Crown

way ahead of the latter. Bucher timed in at 2:47:25 against the 3:07:10 of Slack, who led after the swim race, but lost about 10 minutes later due to a wrong bike turn in Guam.

In the second leg in the Philippines, Slack was again the first female out of the water at the 21:09 mark, more than two minutes ahead of Bucher, who tallied 23:43. Austria's Carina Wasle, who finished fourth in the women's elite division (4:46:17) and third finisher U.K. Pro Darrelle Parker (3:39:44) submitted 23:47 and 26:58 in the 1.5-kilometer swim in the waters off Camotes Sea.

Slack hung on to the lead until the

See RENATA on Page 26



Renata Bucher, seen here going up on a trail run during the 2012 XTERRA Guam early this month, made it back-to-back after winning the 2012 XTERRA Philippines last Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Upset in women's doubles A finals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Angie Ito, seen here in action during her and Loyda Ito's game in the elimination round of the Tan Holdings doubles tournament, beat Hannah Choi and Kim Boranah in the women's A finals last Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The mother and daughter tandem of

Loyda and Angie Ito stunned the favored duo of Hannah Choi and Kim Boranah in the women's A division finals of the 2012 Tan Holdings Badminton Doubles Competition last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

It took only two games for the Taga Badminton Club bets to beat the top-ranked Choi and Boranah in the winner-take-all finals, 21-15, 21-18.

See UPSET on Page 26

NMC Open golf tourney set for April 21



In its effort to advance post secondary education in the CNMI, the Northern Marianas College Foundation

has announced that its signature event, the 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament, will be held on April 2 on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The NMC Foundation is composed of community volunteers committed to elevating higher education opportunities for CNMI students. All proceeds from the tournament will be used to support NMC's educational programs and services.

"It's great that the NMC Foundation Open has built a loyal following of golfers and supporters who are dedicated to helping the College," said NMC Foundation president Ivan

Quichocho. "We are very grateful for their continued support and look forward to seeing them on the golf course this April."

"The NMC Foundation encourages golfers who have not played in the Foundation Open before to join us this year," Quichocho added. "All funds raised will help our students meet their educational goals, which is a win-win situation for everyone."

Entrance fee for the tournament is only \$95 per player. Interested players are also invited to bring their family, friends, and playing partners for a fantastic day of fun and fundraising for a good cause. There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies.

With a shotgun start at 7am, the tournament is a medal play format.

See NMC on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golfers at last year's NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament take time to pose with a Continental Airlines banner. Continental was one of the major sponsors of the tournament. This year's NMC Open is scheduled for April 21.

QQ beats Estolas-less Mobil

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



QQ Car Rental capitalized on the absence of Mobil gunner Jun Estolas to cruise to a 80-69 win in the first game in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

QQ now has a 4-3 record for third place

in the team standings in the 10-squad field, boosting its chances of advancing to the quarterfinals. Mobil absorbed its second loss in five games, as besides Estolas, the Marvin Deocares squad also played without big men Bart Demapan and Leo Factor.

Despite the absence of its key players, Mobil still managed to lead at the end of the first period, 23-20, behind the 12 points of Gyles Ruloked. However, it was all Ruloked show in the next three quarters for Mobil, while QQ drew big games from Elgene Man-

gali, Rolly Paraiso, and Lerio Pagarao to steal the win.

Paraiso and Mangali combined for 11 points in the second canto, outscoring the entire Mobil team and lifting QQ to a 37-33 halftime lead.

The lead was stretched to 11 after the third period, as Pagarao sizzled for nine points in that canto and QQ converted three triples. Then in the fourth canto, Paraiso put the finish touches to QQ's win, making 11 in the payoff period.

Mangali paced QQ with 29, while Paraiso and Pagarao added 19 and 14, respectively.

See QQ on Page 26